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METRO MOVIE CRITIC TAKES A LOOK AT FILMS OVERRUN WITH ELFIN CHARACTERS PAGE 11

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GOODBYE TO MANDELA

Nelson Mandela's widow Graca Machel lowers her head as she listens to speakers during the memorial service for the former South African president at the FNB Stadium in Soweto, near Johannesburg, Tuesday. For more coverage, see page 6. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg joins UN campaign to protect women

'Honoured' and 'alarmed.' City is the first in Canada to join initiative addressing problem of violence against women

Quoted

"This initiative will help to shine the light on the underlying factors that replicate this alarming and increasing rate of violence." Leslie Spillett, executive director of Ka Ni Kanichihk

Manitoba's capital is the first Canadian city to join a United Nations campaign aimed at reducing violence against women and there's hope that the move will address why a disproportionate number of Canada's aboriginal women are victims.

Winnipeg joins more than 15 other cities around the world, including New Delhi and Cairo. The program has led to the inclusion of women's safety audits in urban planning in some of the cities and the banning of sexual harassment in public places in others.

In Winnipeg, police plan to team up with community groups to identify which parts of the city need immediate attention. Some aboriginal leaders are hoping the initiative will focus on sexual and racial violence facing native women.

"Currently, there are 79 documented cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women (in Manitoba)," said Leslie Spillett, executive director of Ka Ni Kanichihk.

Winnipeg police Supt. Danny Smyth, who has worked on cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women, said he had mixed feelings about being the first Canadian city to join the campaign.

"I'm really honoured to be part of this initiative and also a little bit alarmed," he said. "Certainly, in our part of the country, the incidents that have been reported are a little bit higher than some of the other areas. I think there is a lot of work that can be done as part of a collaboration."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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"Number one job site" based on six-month average online job postings for period ending October 31, 2013. Comparison between Workopolis and all other major paid online job boards. Does not include online classified sites or job posting aggregator sites. Statistics provided by WANTED Technologies. © 2013 Workopolis.

News in pictures

1 A new perspective.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights unveiled a model of a 360 immersive theatre on Tuesday, designed to give visitors a unique perspective on aboriginal history. METRO

2 Selfless act.

Winnipeg police are commending a 39-year-old woman for stopping her car early Tuesday morning and helping an 82-year-old man suffering from the bitter cold. She likely saved his life. METRO

3 Free ride.

Mayor Sam Katz announced Tuesday Winnipeg Transit buses will offer free rides for New Year's Eve. Buses will run until their regularly scheduled time. METRO

Havixbeck 'won't back down' after private rebuke made public

A Winnipeg councillor said she's going to continue to ask questions of the city's senior officials even after a private reprimand she was given was made public.

Coun. Paula Havixbeck received a letter from acting chief administrative officer Deepak Joshi on Dec. 6 and parts of which were included in Tuesday's edition of the Winnipeg Free Press.

In that letter, Joshi said Havixbeck's comments to media following the Nov. 29 tabling of the preliminary 2014 operating and capital budgets were "less than temperate and even inflammatory and ought to be reconsidered."

Joshi's ire stemmed from Havixbeck's statement that the budget was "a complete sham. To know that nearly $100 million worth of overexpenditures due to mismanagement, incompetence, perhaps corruption and we're going to put this on the backs of taxpayers?"

That quote made it into Metro's online story on the budget.

On Tuesday, Havixbeck stood by her comments and finds it "shocking" that the letter was made public.

"I find it shocking that a letter that's marked confidential from him to me is nearly in its entirety in the paper ... And I know I didn't provide it to the reporter," she said.

Havixbeck said she's still inquiring on who knew what and when with regards to the Winnipeg Police headquarters and fire halls projects.
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Senior city officials not fans of unpaid leave idea

'Greatest resistance.' Senior managers don't want unpaid leave due to 'pensions': Coun

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

The councillor behind a proposed unpaid leave for city workers in 2014 said senior management is against his idea out of concern for their pensions, not workloads or the employees they're responsible for.

The unpaid leave, which would kick in between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day of 2014, is aimed at "non-essential" staff and would deliver an estimated savings of $1.5 million.

However, the proposal has been met with fierce opposition from the city's largest union, CUPE Local 500, and senior officials such as the directors of public works and water and waste, who have stated they cannot spare the bodies.

Transcona Coun. Russ Wyatt told media after Tuesday's special finance committee meeting that he's aware of CUPE's concerns, but "the greatest resistance we've received in terms of this is from the most senior management in the city."

"Why are they saying that? Because they're being impacted directly on their pensions," said Wyatt.

"That's why we've received the most opposition from the most senior management of the city … They're not saying (pensions), I'm saying that — I'm not speculating."

Coun. Paula Havixbeck believes a better option would be to reintroduce the furlough program to city departments, which would allow staff to choose when they take unpaid time off. Havixbeck said she doesn't know what Wyatt was thinking with his pensions comment, but added "directors work hard and they're in a tough spot."

Coun. Russ Wyatt said the "greatest resistance" to the unpaid leave proposal in the 2014 budget is coming from the city's senior management.
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Havixbeck said the city should also look into a job-share program, which could appeal to women returning after childbirth, or others who'd like to work part-time.

Jolene Olive, 33, stands next to the Exchange District parking meter where she found a wad of cash last week. Olive was able to track down the rightful owner of the money and handed the cash over on Tuesday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Man reunited with lost cash

All's well that ends well. Owner 'happy, but not surprised' by the honesty of Jolene Olive, who found the money last week

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

A Winnipeg man is grateful for the honesty of people like Jolene Olive.

On Monday Olive, 33, made a public plea through Metro Winnipeg, looking for the owner of a wad of cash she'd found in the Exchange District last week.

She wanted to make sure the $160 was returned to whoever had dropped it.

Within hours of the story hitting newsstands, the man who'd lost the cash contacted Metro and on Tuesday Olive handed the cash back.

The rightful owner of the money, who asked to remain anonymous for personal reasons, said Olive's actions brought tears to his eyes.

"(I'm) very happy, but not surprised," he said in an email. "(I) know that there's a lot of merciful people in the world and (I'm) just glad that one of them found it."

Although a handful of other people contacted her about the cash, Olive knew she'd found the rightful owner when the man was able to describe the money clip that held the wad.

It had a CN logo on it, and it was a money clip Olive had seen before.

"My Dad worked for CN," she explained after meeting the man and returning the money. "I'm not sure if it was a special money clip they received for years of service, but my Dad had the same money clip."

When he heard Olive's story about the clip's connection to her late father, the man promptly handed the clip right back to her.

"It means a lot to me," said Olive of the gesture. "It'll remind me of my dad, and it'll also remind me of this day."

Finance chair wants snow budget on winter cycle

As residential snow-clearing efforts began on Tuesday, the city's finance committee proposed a change to the cycle of its snow-clearing budget line.

Currently snow clearing falls on a Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 cycle, as is the case for all city budget lines.

"We have a winter, right?" said Coun. Russ Wyatt, who chairs the finance committee. "So why shouldn't the snow-clearing budget be on a winter cycle?"

The finance committee is proposing a May 1 to April 30 cycle instead, and it is asking the public service to prepare a report, due back to the committee in 120 days.

"We have the best snow clearing of any North American city," said Wyatt, adding this change would ensure "we wouldn't be up against the artificial Dec. 31 budget deadline that we've created."

Since 2007, bare pavement and curb-to-curb snow removal have been the city's policy for residential streets, said Wyatt, who joked that this is the "Cadillac" of snow clearing.

Coun. Paula Havixbeck said Winnipeggers expect that level of snow removal.

"It's a basic municipal service that people are entitled to," said Havixbeck.

She added that she wasn't sure how easy it would be to pull one item from the budget and run it differently, but she still thinks it's a good policy.

ZACH PETERS/FOR METRO, WITH FILES FROM BERNICE PONTANILLA

Projections

- At Tuesday's meeting, figures up to Oct. 31 were released and they projected a $3.7-million deficit.
- Snow clearing is the "wild card" in determining whether the city budget experiences a deficit or surplus, said Mike Ruta, the city's chief financial officer.
- This round of residential street cleaning is expected to cost $4 million.
- The city's preliminary budget for 2014 includes $32 million for snow clearing.

Firefighting 101. UFFW commercials coming to a big and small screen near you

The United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg (UFFW) has launched a set of three commercials, accompanied by online testimonials, that aims to educate people about what it means to be a firefighter.

"Firefighting is not all glamour. People may not realize the toll it can take on a firefighter's body or their person. I've shed many tears over the last few years and that's nothing to be ashamed of," said veteran firefighter Ed Wiebe, who has been doing the job for more than 25 years.

Wiebe was severely injured — with burn injuries covering 70 per cent of his body, and many of his fingers amputated — in a fire where two captains died on Feb. 4, 2007. He said he tries to be the voice of reality by telling new recruits, and now the people of Winnipeg, about the dangerous aspects of the job and the important role firefighters play in this city.

Alex Forrest, president of the UFFW, said that the commercials and online testimonials are the second part of a campaign they started in September, with a third to come.

"We're always trying to show the public exactly what we do as a profession and the value we provide for the citizens of Winnipeg," said Forrest. "When it comes down to it, they pay a lot of money in their taxes for it — but they get a lot for it as well."

Forrest says there is enough money in the upcoming budget to cover this year's costs, but the amount they get now won't be enough for the future.

The budget also doesn't set aside enough money for public education on arson, he said.

"For everything we wanted to do to stop this problem of arson, we would probably have needed $500,000," said Forrest — an amount equal to the cost of an arson on Portage Avenue, set by a 12-year-old boy in October.

The commercials are set to run on TV, at movie theatres and on the UFFW website in December.

CLARA BUELOW/FOR METRO

Alex Forrest, president of United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, talks about the union's newest campaign. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Quoted

"Every single movie theatre will be playing this before every movie for the next month. If you're watching The Hobbit, you're going to see our commercial."

Alex Forrest, president of the UFFW

Ford stands by word he didn't want to say

'Beyond the pale.'
Toronto mayor doubles down on insinuation about Star reporter

Conrad Black, left, interviews Rob Ford on his show on Vision TV. CONTRIBUTED

A defiant Toronto Mayor Rob Ford refused Tuesday to apologize or explain televised comments in which he sparked a threat of legal action by appearing to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile.

Asked if he would say sorry to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale or clarify the comments he made during a Vision TV interview with former media baron and convicted felon Conrad Black, Ford was emphatic.

"I stand by my words, what I said with Conrad Black," Ford told a news conference. "I stand by every word I said."

Black had asked Ford in the interview broadcast Monday about media intrusion on his family's privacy, and Ford singled out Dale for an incident that happened in May 2012.

"Daniel Dale is in my backyard taking pictures. I have little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford told Black in the interview, taped Friday.

"I don't want to say that word but you start thinking what this guy is all about."

Dale said at no time did he ever take any photographs of the mayor's family, house or property — and a police investigation bore that out.

The matter was in the hands of Star lawyers, Dale said.

Editor in chief Michael Cooke said Tuesday that it would be Dale's decision on whether to sue but said the Star would back him financially.

"I can't think of a worse thing to say about a man — a man who has sex with children," Cooke said. "I can't think of a worse insult, a worse libel, a worse accusation."

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who has assumed most of the mayor's powers, denounced the mayor's view.

"It's almost beyond comment. It goes beyond the pale and I think there should be an apology for that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alice Munro's Nobel Prize accepted by daughter Jenny

Jenny Munro, daughter of the 2013 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature Alice Munro, receives the Nobel in her place from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm Tuesday. Alice Munro, a Canadian short-story legend, is only the 13th woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature, and the first Canadian-based author to receive it. FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fredericton

Pot-smoking Mountie charged with assaulting fellow officer

The Public Safety Department for Fredericton, N.B., says a Mountie who complained about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana on the job was subdued with a stun gun and charged with assaulting another RCMP officer.

Alycia Morehouse, a spokeswoman for the department, says Cpl. Ron Francis is undergoing a psychiatric assessment after he was arrested last week. He is due back in provincial court on Jan. 6.

An RCMP spokeswoman says the Mounties were concerned about Francis's well-being when they found him Friday on a street in downtown Fredericton.

She says Francis was hit with a stun gun at one point, but she couldn't offer further details, saying the matter is before the courts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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From prisoner to peacemaker

Nelson Mandela. In eulogy to late leader, Obama implores people to embrace universal message of peace and justice

Amid cheers and song for the prisoner who became peacemaker, President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state Tuesday with a plea for the world to emulate Nelson Mandela, "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

Obama's eulogy was the rhetorical highlight of a memorial service in which South Africans celebrated Mandela's life with singing and dancing, often during dignitaries' speeches.

Lashing rain lent a free-wheeling aspect to the memorial, with people taking shelter in the stadium's wide hallways, where they sang anti-apartheid anthems from the 1970s and 1980s. Foul weather kept many away, and the 95,000-capacity stadium was only two-thirds full.

Obama implored people to embrace Mandela's universal message of peace and justice, comparing the South African leader to Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. Mandela spent 27 years in prison under a racist regime, and promoted forgiveness when he was finally freed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two girls dance in the rain outside of the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto, near Johannesburg, South Africa, on Tuesday. TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebration of a life

"We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. But let me say to the young people of Africa, and young people around the world — you can make his life's work your own."

U.S. President Barack Obama

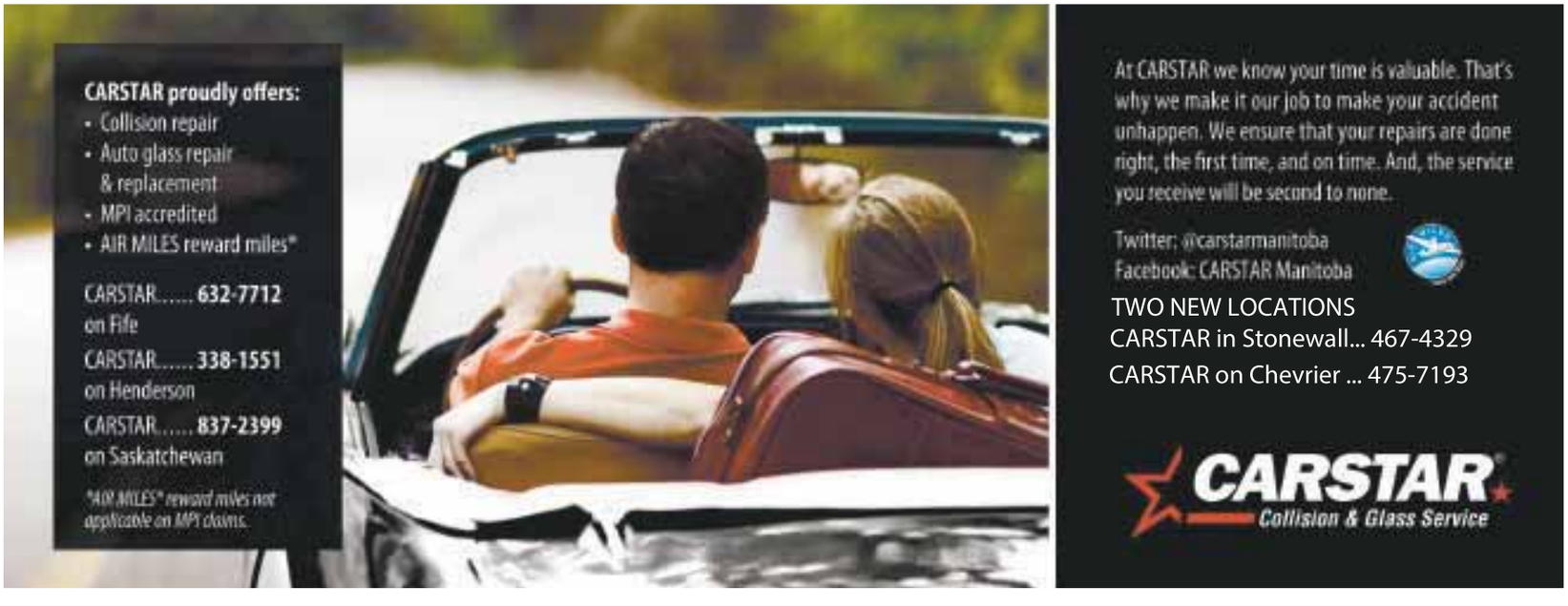
A boy at the memorial. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to crowds attending the memorial service for Nelson Mandela. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In attendance

In contrast to the wild applause given to Obama, South African President Jacob Zuma was booed. Many South Africans are unhappy with Zuma because of state corruption scandals, though his ruling African National Congress, once led by Mandela, remains the front-runner ahead of elections next year.

- A dazzling mix of royalty, statesmen and celebrities was in attendance.
- Among the heads of state and government were some from countries like Cuba that don't hold fully democratic elections.
- Other attending leaders criticized for their human rights records were Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema and Gambia's Yahya Jammeh.
- Actress Charlize Theron, model Naomi Campbell and singer Bono were among the celebrities paying final tribute.
- Mandela's widow, Graca Machel, and his former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, gave each other a long hug before the ceremonies began.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Can we claim Santa's home? Putin plans to play Grinch

Sabre rattling. Russia counters Canada's bid to expand Arctic turf with military directive

Russian President Vladimir Putin is pawing the snow over Canada's claim to the North Pole.

A day after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Canada is extending its Arctic territorial claim beyond the area mapped by federal scientists, Putin responded Tuesday with a highly visible message to the Russian military.

"I would like you to devote special attention to deploying infrastructure and military units in the Arctic," Putin was quoted saying in televised comments at a meeting of the Defence Ministry Board in Moscow. The country requires "every lever for the protection of its security and national interests there," Putin said for the cameras.

Baird held a news conference Monday on Parliament Hill where he asserted the Arctic claim will include the North Pole, although Canada has yet to do the mapping work to support its bid.

Russia is already drilling for oil in the high Arctic, and in 2007 a Russian team planted the country's flag on the sea floor at the magnetic pole.

Baird's spokesman Rick Roth responded to Putin's latest Arctic chest-thumping by stating Canada will defend its sovereignty in the region "in adherence to international law, and through science-based measures."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hot property

1.2M

Last week, Canada made a formal scientific submission to the United Nations claiming 1.2 million square kilometres of seabed under the Atlantic, as well as a preliminary claim in the Arctic Ocean.

Ranger Joe Amarualik drives his snowmobile on the ice during a Canadian Ranger sovereignty patrol near Eureka, on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, in 2007. Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway have all been trying to assert jurisdiction over parts of the Arctic, which is believed to hold up to a quarter of the planet's undiscovered oil and gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Uruguay. Senate expected to approve weed market

Uruguay's Senate was finishing its final debate Tuesday before voting on an audacious and risky plan to create the world's first national marijuana market, with the state regulating the entire process of growing, selling and using a drug that is illegal almost everywhere else.

Approval late Tuesday was all but assured, given the ruling coalition's majority and support from President Jose Mujica, who says he's convinced the global drug war is a failure and that state regulations can do a better job than weapons to contain addictions and defeat a thriving illegal market.

Former Health Minister Alfredo Solari, a Colorado Party senator, warned that children and adolescents will more easily get their hands on pot, and that "the effects of this policy on public health will be terrible." But Sen. Roberto Conde, a former deputy foreign minister with the ruling Broad Front, said marijuana "is already established in Uruguay. It's a drug that is already seen as very low risk and enormously easy to get." Constanza Moreira, a fellow Broad Front senator, said, "This law will return us to the vanguard of Latin America."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco

13 plead guilty in PayPal attack

Thirteen people have pleaded guilty to helping briefly disable PayPal as part of a protest that authorities say was organized by the hacking group Anonymous.

Ten of the defendants pleaded guilty to felony and misdemeanour charges of intentionally damaging a protected computer. If they stay out of legal trouble, the U.S. Department of Justice plans to drop the felony charges. Three other defendants pleaded guilty to misdemeanour charges in San Jose federal court and face similar sentences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAPPY NEW LIFE!
Thanks for another year of recycling empty beverage containers.
Your empty beverage containers can be recycled into something useful. So let's ring in the New Year with cheerful sounds that jingle in your bin.
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.CA

Electric helicopter designers raise $1.65 million through crowdfunding campaign

Volocopter. Creators of ultra-light aircraft hope to start selling them in 2015 for delivery in 2016

Fresh from completing the first electric flight, the German engineers at E-Volo have scooped $1.65 million US in a crowdfunding campaign for their 'Volocopter' design, believed to be a world record.

The craft is an ultra-light aircraft that runs on batteries. CEO Stephan Wolf is excited.

An image of the Volocopter. CONTRIBUTED

Why do people like it so much?
E-mobility is extending through so many industries and this has captured the imagination — so many people have sent emails saying they love it. Also, the launch and landing are key with flights and electric aircraft can be controlled better.

When will they hit the market?
We will get the license next year — so far we have not even flown in it. After that we can start to sell them in 2015 for delivery in 2016. At this point we are only producing ultra-light class for two people but in theory it can be scaled to any size, even powered only by batteries.

Will this be the future of drones?
The term is a bit military but of course it is possible. We have remote-controlled a small model so it is perfectly realistic to build drones, but at the moment we are thinking of manned aircraft.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Quoted

"... this has captured the imagination — so many people have sent emails saying they love it."

CEO Stephan Wolf, on why people seem to love the Volocopter.

Comet chaser. Scientists get set to give deep space probe its wake-up call

When Europe's Rosetta probe gets roused from its deep space slumber next month, scientists are hoping it will be fit and ready for the final stage of its daring mission to land a spacecraft on a comet.

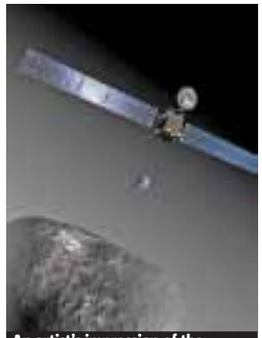
There is little room for mistakes as the coming months involve a high-speed chase, a delicate dance around comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, and finally the precision drop of a lander onto its icy surface — set for Nov. 11.

"Imagine trying to parachute onto the tip of a mountain," said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations at the European Space Agency.

The lander — called Philae — will drop onto the surface of 67P and latch on using a harpoon, to prevent it from drifting off into space due to the comet's weak gravity.

Launched in 2004, Rosetta has already spent almost 10 years in space preparing for its big day.

The spacecraft has been in hibernation for more than two years now to conserve energy.



An artist's impression of the Rosetta orbiter deploying the Philae lander to comet 67P. ESA, C.CARREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One key question scientists hope the mission can help answer is whether comets are responsible for the water on Earth, as comets have remained largely unchanged since the beginning of the universe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Altruism? Silicon Valley fights to protect personal data ... and the bottom line

Even as Silicon Valley speaks out against the U.S. government's surveillance methods, technology companies are turning a handsome profit by mining personal data and peering into people's online habits.

The industry's profit machine has become tarnished by revelations that the National Security Agency digs deep into the everyday lives of Web surfers. As a result, companies including Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo are becoming more aggressive in their attempts to counter any perception that they voluntarily give the government access to users' email and other sensitive information.

Advertising dollars

At stake is the trust of massive online audiences that attract digital advertising. As companies collect personal data and learn more about each user's interests and habits, advertising becomes easier to sell.

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, said in a blog post last week that the U.S. government's online surveillance efforts "threaten to seriously undermine confidence in the security and privacy of online communications."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans funnel hot air from the computer servers at a Google data centre. Google and other tech giants have voiced concern about government surveillance. CONNIE ZHOU/GOOGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.31¢ (+0.28¢)

TSX 13,324.01 (+ 11.23)

OIL $98.51 US (+ $1.17)

GOLD $1,261.10 US (+ $26.90)

Natural gas: $4.25 US (+$0.01)
Dow Jones: 15,973.13 (-52.40)

Lululemon Athletica Inc. founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman of the board after making controversial remarks regarding women's bodies. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Lululemon founder out after women's bodies comment

Stretching in new directions. The Vancouver-based company names a new CEO as it moves on from its annus horribilis

Lululemon Athletica named a new chief executive Tuesday and announced founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman as the athletic clothing retailer looked to put a difficult 2013 behind it.

The changes mark the end of the five years of dramatic growth of the Vancouver-based company with Wilson and outgoing CEO Christine Day at the helm.

The company said Tuesday that Laurent Potdevin will take over as chief executive next month. Potdevin, who began his career at luxury retailer LVMH, most recently served as president of Toms Shoes.

Day has overseen the company's expansion beyond yoga clothes to all manner of workout gear, more than tripling the company's share value since she took over as chief executive in 2008.

However, Lululemon has struggled this year with its first major stumble when it pulled its black Luon pants from store shelves after customer complaints that the pants were too sheer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sheer madness

"Quite frankly, some women's bodies just actually don't work for it."

Lululemon founder Chip Wilson, in an interview last month ignited a storm of criticism by suggesting to Bloomberg TV that production issues may not be the only issue regarding the sheerness of its Luon yoga pants.

Got the maximum

Exec jailed after selling faulty breast implants

A French businessman who sold tens of thousands of breast implants filled with industrial-grade silicone and prone to leaks was convicted of fraud on Tuesday and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cultural Institute Lab

France turns nose up at Google amid privacy row

France's culture minister has snubbed the launch of Google's latest project, the Paris-based Cultural Institute Lab over a row about privacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Barra

GM names first woman to head a U.S. car company

General Motors picked Mary Barra, its product development chief and a 33-year company veteran, as its next CEO. She will become the first female head of a major U.S. car company. GM said Tuesday Barra, 51, will replace Dan Akerson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Barra THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Baby bouncy seat with iPad causes concern

Not your mother's bouncy seat: The Apptivity Seat comes with an attachment for an iPad. SCREEN GRAB

Ahh, the first year of a baby's life — learning to sit up, crawl, even walk. But how about playtime in a bouncy seat with an iPad and some cool apps?

Fisher-Price is selling a baby bouncy seat with an attachment where parents can insert an iPad so baby can watch video content aimed at the youngest children — an idea that is being criticized by the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. The Boston-based advocacy group started an online petition campaign Tuesday, urging Fisher-Price to recall its Newborn-to-Toddler Apptivity Seat for iPads.

CCFC says it's not healthy for a baby's development and encourages parents to leave baby alone. "Babies thrive when they are talked to, played with and cuddled, not when they are alone with a screen," said Susan Linn, the group's director, in an interview.

Fisher-Price, in response, said the Apptivity Seat is a niche product that is only available online — one of more than a dozen bouncy seats for infants — and is not meant to be seen as an educational product for children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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We need your help to serve hot meals and provide other essential services to people experiencing hunger and homelessness in Winnipeg's inner city this Christmas season.

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HYPNAGOGIA SOUNDS LIKE A SNOOZE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

OK, it's time to get up close and personal.

Do you take naps?

I'm not sure what prompted that question, but it occurred to me during a session in the "thinking chair" in my office.

Some of my best ideas happen in the thinking chair, usually just before someone starts snoring and the walls start to reverberate. If I ever find out who's doing it…

Turns out I'm not the only one who becomes inspired in that twilight zone between sleeping and waking, that place where you're starting to dream but haven't fallen asleep yet.

That state, which is called hypnagogia, was visited frequently by Edison, Einstein, Aristotle and Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali, he of the landscapes featuring melting clocks. Hypnagogic, dude.

So, napping is not a sign of increasing senility, but a powerful creative tool. Hence the term "power nap." Superman probably knocks off a few power zzzzs when he's all cosy in the Fortress of Solitude. Nobody calls Superman senile, although there is that giant 's' on his chest.

There is some research to suggest power naps help prevent heart attacks, although that could be because people who engage in cardiovascular exercise have a tendency to get calm and drowsy after their workout. The jury is still out … like a light.

If you've tried power napping and only end up feeling groggy afterwards, it's probably because you're not doing it right. I know, I know, what's to learn? Close your eyes, count to 10 … how long was I out?

If you go past Hypnagogia Land into the realms of deeper sleep lasting longer than 20 minutes, that's not good, as you could end up with sleep inertia, which makes you groggy and grumpy.

Dali, he of the hypnagogic melting clocks, had a trick that prevented him from succumbing to the rapture of the depths. He would hold a key in his right hand, which he would then dangle over a plate. As soon as he started to heed the call of the Sandman, the key would drop out of his hand and clatter on the plate. Then he'd be up, refreshed, and back to his melting clocks. He called it "just the necessary amount of repose."

If you're still worried what everyone will think if you catnap at the controls of your 747, remember that entire cultures are based on the nap, only they call it the siesta, which sounds poetic, lyrical. People who take siestas never drool, for example.

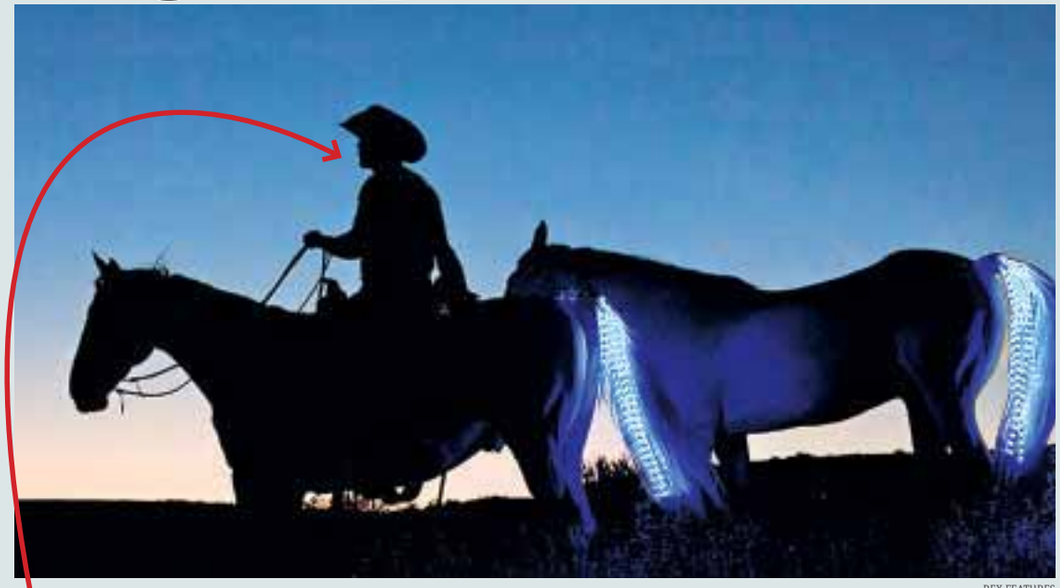
The siesta is associated with the twin drivers of leisurely noonday meals and warm summer afternoons characteristic of Mediterranean climates, but you can try it here too, where it's all fast food and frost.

And if you start to do your best work immediately after a power nap, remember that it worked for Edison and Einstein. OK, maybe you have to try a little harder.

Five more minutes?

ZOOM

It lights up a horse's behind



REX FEATURES

Safety first with glitzy horse lights

A California-based firm has invented the first safety lighting for horses. Tail Lights are LED lights that drape through a horse's tail to provide a safe way to warn motorists of a horse and its rider. They are the brainchild of Sami Gros, who developed the idea after her friend was almost killed when a car struck her horse. **METRO**

Founder says

"It all began following a life-threatening accident. Despite using reflective gear, the horse ridden by my friend was hit from behind by a car as we were approaching the barn around dusk."

Sami Gros, founder of Tail Lights

'An attractive visual presence on the road'

The system consists of six water-resistant LED strips in the shape of a horse's tail. The LED strands are attached to the base of the tail by a specially designed neoprene tail wrap. According to its designers, the lights do not emit heat, are water resistant and allow for free movement of the tail — and make "an attractive visual presence on the road." **METRO**

A Kickstarter campaign was launched to raise the $100,000 needed to make the innovation widely available.

COURTESY TAIL-LIGHTS.COM

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

COURTESY BOOMF

As the holiday shopping season descends on us all, Metro has a few ideas on what to get that person in your life who lives on social media. Here are some sites that will take your Instagram photos and turn them into Insta-gifts.

Printstagram (printstagr.am)
A one-stop shop for turning your favourite social media photos into everything from cards, to posters or stickers.

Stitchtagram (stitchtagram.com):
Based in Washington, D.C., this company lets you design pillows, bags and purses using your Instagram snapshots.

Boomf (boomf.com):
This site will literally print Instagram photos onto bite-sized marshmallows (pictured) and deliver them to your door. What else would you expect from a company whose tagline is "turn your memories into magical morsels?"

Twitter

@metropicks asked: "We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Barack Obama said at Mandela's memorial. Who do you think will be the next Mandela?

@WTarcisio: No one will replace Nelson Mandela and also Michael Jackson, Ayrton Senna and Elvis Plesley.

@MA6hp: According to @kanyewest he is new #Mandela.

@flarkcon: That's ironic

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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Forget Middle-earth, movies are overrun with strange elves

New movies. From the North Pole to Nazi Germany to stories that go nowhere, the elfin character gets lots of play on screen

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Evangeline Lilly stars in The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. CONTRIBUTED

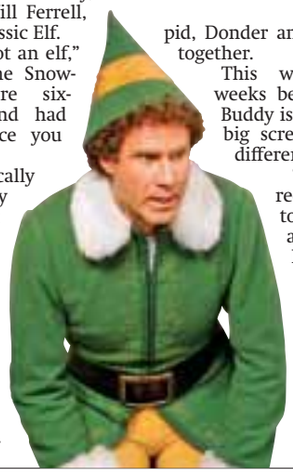
When we think of elves at this time of year visions of Santa's helpers fill our heads.

The cute, industrious and diminutive creatures from the North Pole can be seen everywhere in December in Christmas TV specials, greeting cards and movies like Arthur Christmas and Santa Claus: The Movie.

One of the most famous movie elves is Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in the neoclassic Elf.

"You're not an elf," says Leon the Snowman. "You're six-foot-three and had a beard since you were 15."

So technically he's not really an elf, just a human raised by elves, but he has more Christmas spirit than Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen put together.



Will Ferrell became a neoclassic elf in the Christmas movie Elf. CONTRIBUTED

This weekend, just weeks before Dec. 25, Buddy is joined on the big screen by a very different kind of elf.

"She's slightly reckless and totally ruthless and doesn't hesitate to kill."

That's how Evangeline Lilly describes the 600-year-old "she-elf" Tauriel from this weekend's The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.

The bow-and-arrow wielding character is new to the J.R.R. Tolkien movie franchise, created by director Peter Jackson and his co-writers Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens.

"She's our redhead," says Boyens.

"We created her for that reason. To bring that energy into the film, that feminine energy. We believe it's completely within the spirit of Tolkien."

Buddy and Tauriel are just two of the many kinds of movie elves.

Elves (or Gelfling as they're called in the flick), are the main focus of the Jim Henson film The Dark Crystal.

Dobby the House Elf was voted the No. 1 favourite magical creature in the Harry Potter series by NextMovie.com and Thor: The Dark World featured Dark Elves, an ancient race of dangerous beings whose spaceships are powered by black holes.

The cheese-ball B-movie Elves features the tag line, "They're Not Working for Santa ... Anymore."

Well, if not Santa, then who?

Nazis, that's who.

Finally Tom Cruise consorted with an elf named Honeythorn Gump in Legend, the Ridley Scott film The New York Times called "a slapdash amalgam of Old Testament, King Arthur, The Lord of the Rings and any number of comic books."

Swiss actor David Bennett played the feisty elfin sidekick who not only is the protector of the world's last two unicorns but, along with elves Screwball, Brown Tom and Oona, helps Cruise's character save the world from the nasty Lord of Darkness (Tim Curry).

Luke Evans no longer waiting in the wings

New movie. His work as Bard the Bowman was shot ages ago but it's just finally coming to audiences with the latest installment of The Hobbit

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Luke Evans finally shows up in The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. CONTRIBUTED

Last year, as the first Hobbit installment raked in more than $1 billion worldwide, Welsh actor Luke Evans sat quietly by as Martin Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage got all the attention, since his work as Bard the Bowman wouldn't turn up until the second film, The Desolation of Smaug.

Well, Evans has to wait no longer.

After three Lord of the Rings films and the first Hobbit, it's kind of a foregone conclusion that New Zealand is a beautiful place, isn't it?
Yeah, I think we need to just give up now. We all know this. Maybe we should just say, 'Actually, it's a s—hole,' (laughs). No, it's great. The Kiwis, they're very proud of their country and how they've preserved it in a really beautiful way, especially the South Island. It's so unspoiled.

You filmed your part before even the first Hobbit had come out. What was it like last year watching the reactions and box office come in for that one, knowing that to audiences you still weren't quite a part of it?
It was enjoyable, but it was also a bit of, 'Aw, shame I'm not part of this,' you know? But I've been very patient, I've bided my time, and now my turn has come and now I'm in the story and I'm not going anywhere now, I'm here till the end. But it was exciting to watch.

Do you have an action figure yet?
I have a Lego character, that's quite cool. It's not so much action, he can't bend his arms, but he looks quite cool. And he has a Lego Laketown as well, and a little plastic bow and arrow. And he's got a really angry face.

So you didn't have any input on the Lego face?
No, no, obviously not. But it's great. I mean, it's a lovely thing, isn't it? That's the fun thing about being part of something as big as The Hobbit, things like that happen. Apparently Denny's, the cafe, have a whole Laketown menu. They have, like, the Bard's Brew and the Bowman's Pumpkin Pie. I'm tempted to go down there and order it all and just sit there munching through a Denny's breakfast.

I wouldn't recommend that, actually.
No, no, of course.

Unboxing

"I have a Lego character, that's quite cool."

Luke Evans
Talking about getting an action figure in his image

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Benedict Cumberbatch. 'I feel like I'm the cheat at the table, really'

Benedict Cumberbatch GETTY IMAGES

Most actors involved in the Hobbit series of films talk about the joys of becoming de facto residents of New Zealand, moving to the lower hemisphere to film three movies back-to-back-to-back. But Benedict Cumberbatch, who performs as the greedy dragon Smaug (and did some motion-capture work as the Necromancer), was there for barely more than a week.

"That was the biggest con of doing this. Hearing all these stories of the live action harrowing-ness, and all the amazing work these people put in, I did my work in about eight days," Cumberbatch says. "I feel like I'm the cheat at the table really."

On top of that, while the bulk of his screen time is spent sparring with his Sherlock co-star, Martin Freeman, as the titular hobbit, he and Freeman weren't actually present for any of each others performances.

"I didn't spend any sort of live time with Martin, which was sad," he says. "We know each other quite well so we kind of second-guessed in a weird way our performances to some degree, I guess. It's a very different dynamic, very different. (On 'Sherlock') I'm in the room with him and I'm not the flying, psychotic napalm machine. I could be dismissive of him as Dr. Watson as my Sherlock, but they're friends. Very different."

While he and Freeman are old pals, there was a whole cast of co-stars he missed out on befriending.

"Sadly, I met hardly any of the cast," he says. "Richard (Armitage) and I met once. I crossed over with people as they were coming back to do I think their third stint, I think. I've had scenes with people I haven't even met yet. So that is bizarre."

Also bizarre? Embodying a dragon for his motion-capture performance, something a bit more abstract and reptilian than Andy Serkis' work as Gollum.

"It's only going to be an impression of something that's a serpentine reptile who can breathe fire and fly because I'm a limited biped mammal, sorry about that," he jokes. "But Peter (Jackson) knew that when I auditioned. So we worked with my sort of negatives and tried to turn them into positives."

That work involved quite a bit of contortion and discomfort. "One of the ways I did it was trying to squeeze my legs together, just forgetting the fact that they were legs, just trying to feel that as an elongated body." NED EHRBAR/MWN

it's perfect.

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The Word

Tila Tequila takes a turn for the worse

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Last year, Tila Tequila was rushed to the hospital for some terrible reason or another (news sites said it was either a brain aneurysm, a drug overdose or a suicide attempt). Radar Online claimed a brain aneurysm made her "think irrationally" and ingest "two bottles of unspecified heavy prescription drugs." Sources told Radar Online that as a result of whatever happened, she probably suffered "permanent brain damage."

Well, that alleged brain damage may have been on display early Monday morning with the faded reality TV star posting some crazy-pants rants on Facebook (over 12 in a 24-hour period). So crazy, it is hard to write about it in a sensible manner.

"I never said I hated anyone, but just because I feel sympathy, compassion, and forgiveness for others such as Hitler means I am now a monster? All for trying to open your eyes to the truth that Hitler was NOT as bad as he was painted out to be?" she wrote. She then posted a photo to prove that "EVERY ETHNIC PERSON WAS INVOLVED IN WWII… NOT JUST GERMAN PEOPLE!" See? Crazy.

"Blacks, Asians, Jews, Middle Easterners and so on… ALL WERE NAZIS!!! But did you ever hear about this? NO! Because the Zionist Cabal doesn't want you to know the truth but I will speak the truth for GOD since NO ONE ELSE HAS THE BALLS TO!"

Well then!

Crazy online ranting is nothing new to Tequila this week. Over the weekend, she first raised eyebrows when she blamed Paul Walker's death on a "ritualistic murder" rather than what it was — a tragic car accident.

"I believe I am the only person on this entire planet who knows what happened I have just kept my mouth shut because there is a lot more to it and of course ... cases like this," Tila wrote about the mysterious case of Elisa Lam, a 21-year-old University of British Columbia student whose body was found in a water tank at a downtown Los Angeles hotel this year.

She then equated that death with Walker's. "I just did not want to draw any attention to myself but I know exactly why they did it and yes it was indeed a ritualistic murder. Just like Paul Walker's."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Harry Styles. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Harry and hook-up hang out in Hell's Kitchen

Maybe Harry Styles and Kendall Jenner were looking for an under-the-radar place to hang out, but a gay bar in New York City clearly wasn't it. After Styles' Saturday Night Live performance with One Direction, he and his rumoured girlfriend had a busy night of party-hopping, stopping for a bit at Hell's Kitchen gay bar Therapy, according to E! News. A source says Styles and Jenner "were having a great time" and "for sure looked like they were a couple. They had a blast." The fact that Styles is 19 and Jenner is 18 — and the drinking age in the U.S. is 21 — didn't seem to factor into their having a blast.

Perry pans parents' presidential politics

Katy Perry tries to not let politics come between her and her conservative parents — except when an invitation to Barack Obama's inauguration is involved. "My parents are Republicans, and I'm not," she tells Marie Claire. "They didn't vote for Obama, but when I was asked to sing at the inauguration, they were like, 'We can come.' And I was like, No, you can't. I love you so much, but that — on principle.' They understood, but I was like, 'How dare you?' in a way."

Katy Perry

Twitter

@SteveMartinToGo
Football players are such weenies. I'm injured all the time while writing, yet I continue.

@ParisHilton
I am so horrified that someone would hire a plane to fly over Paul Walker's crash site with messages from me. So disrespectful.

@KellyOsbourne
Lets play a game #WordsThatDriveYouNuts ok here is a good one 'moist.' Moist is a awful word! Just say it... Moist! AHHHHHHHH!!! YOUR TURN!

Bradley Cooper

Suki stays (sort of) silent about celeb squeeze

Bradley Cooper and girlfriend Suki Waterhouse made their first official appearance together as a couple at the American Hustle premiere party in New York this weekend, according to TMZ. While they've been spotted out and about before, both have worked hard to keep mum about the relationship "because it's boring," Waterhouse recently told Elle U.K. "I'm not one of those girls who goes on about their boyfriends. I do think whatever I say will sound weird. But the truth is, if I start talking about him, I probably won't be able to stop."

Courteney Cox

B-lister brings beau to Bel Air

It looks like Courteney Cox may have found some new romance for the holidays with Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, according to Life & Style. McDaid accompanied Cox to Jennifer Aniston's Bel Air holiday party in November and wasn't shy about her feelings.

"Courteney definitely looked like she was on a date," a source says. "They were holding hands during the party." Cox's ex-husband, David Arquette, let slip during a chat with Howard Stern on Oct. 31 that she was dating someone new after splitting from Cougar Town co-star Brian Van Holt. "She's with someone who loves and cares for her," Arquette said. "That's all I care about."

You'll love this Cancun resort to the Moon and back

Sun and fun. Winter's icy grip is upon us, might we suggest beaches and bubbly?

GINA ANGELOTTI
Metro World News in New York

Enjoy a cocktail by one of the resort's beautiful pools. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/MOON RESORT

Bored of the beach? Try your hand at the golf course.

Moon Palace Cancun is a sprawling all-inclusive waterfront resort minutes from Cancun International Airport. Divided into three sections — Sunrise, Nizuc and Grand — each has its own character, landscape, demographic, restaurants and amenities. Once you put on a guest bracelet at check-in, you're not only given access to these "phases," which while walkable are connected by a lobby-to-lobby bus service, but you're also allowed to visit other Palace properties in the region. With seemingly limitless entertainment and dining options, the real party in Cancun happens here.

As the bellman explained the extensive features of our deluxe room at Grand, it became apparent that this resort was built with newlyweds in mind. With an in-room jacuzzi — standard for all suites — and a furnished patio, our accommodations were quite large for a single person.

But it wasn't long before we took advantage of the cavernous marble shower, swim-suited up and set out for sunshine. While climbing stairs that led to the nearest pool, we almost stepped on one of dozens of sunbathing iguanas that would appear over three days.

Outstretched in a chaise under the shade of palm fronds and umbrellas, the heat was welcome. There were more chairs embedded in a shallow shelf of water along the pool's perimeter, and these prime seats were often occupied.

But when the water gets to be too much, guests will be happy to know that Moon Palace has a spa, two salons and daily yoga in an on-site meditation garden.

Even though it briefly rained each day, the side effects were positive: The loudest guests — mostly families — abandoned the deck, and the ocean breeze rolled in to whip our paperbacks' pages and the napkins under our cocktails du jour.

Wash, rinse, repeat: We pool-hopped like this for the rest of the trip.

One afternoon at the Sunrise pool's coal-fired pizza oven, two newlyweds chit-chatted with other guests in line.

An older woman advised the couple, "It only gets better." Smiling, the husband of the pair responded: "We've been here three days and each one has gotten better."

Just beyond these pools is the quieter beachfront. Although a hefty bit of seaweed clutters the otherwise sea glass-green waters — not on par with the Mayan Riviera's reputation for pristine beaches — the sandbars are the glorious temperature of bathwater and the sand itself is the softest we've bared our feet for.

Each time we walked the shoreline between the phases, we shuffled through heart after heart etched in the sand. We eventually caved and drew one, too.

"Have you ever been kissed by a Mexican?" asked Miguel, a trainer at Moon Palace's own dolphinarium, where guests get a show and a wet smooch from one of eight bottlenose dolphins. A professional photographer on hand means that guests take home a souvenir portrait that's a step up from a smartphone selfie.

On the last evening of the trip, we had an unexpectedly exceptional meal at Los Tacos.

At the poolside snack bar, surrounded by a ring of romantic canopied beds and mangroves, a flirtatious waiter brought to our table a heaping plate of nachos that we didn't actually order. But it didn't matter, because the tortilla chips swimming in cheese, grilled pork and pineapples were as gratifying as the tumbler of Dos Equis we washed them down with.

For the kids

- While there are hoards of honeymooners — Moon Palace hosts more than a thousand weddings annually — the resort is actually bursting at the seams with families. The appeal is as strong for the under-18 set as it is for grown-ups. Parents relax poolside while their kids roam independently with minimal risk, and vice-versa. Plus, the all-inclusive element means that, cost-wise, parents don't need to utter the dreaded word "no" very often. Kids seem elated; adults look relieved.

On a sunny day, when the Grand Canal is a sparkling ribbon of aquamarine embossed with boats ancient and modern, Venice can steal your heart. And it can do a number on your wallet, too. Knocking back a Bellini at the Hemingway haunt of Harry's Bar will cost you. And taking a gondola ride? You don't want to know how much. But here are five things to do in La Serenissima — as the serene city is sometimes called — that don't cost a dime, or a pound of flesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Free things in Venice

The Square

Centrally located, St. Mark's Square — Piazza San Marco — is lined with shops and restaurants and is a must-see. Go early or late to avoid the worst crowds. You can go into the church for free, although there are fees to see the museum and other areas. Completely free: window shopping, people-watching and posing for selfies.

The Bridges

Venice is brimming with bridges. The Rialto, a stone arch lined with shops that crosses the Grand Canal at about the halfway point, is the most famous. The Academy Bridge — Ponte dell' Accademia — between the Campo di San Vidal and Campo della Carita, also offers great views of the Grand Canal.

The Ghetto

The word ghetto originated in Venice where a gated part of the city was designated as the Jewish quarter from the 16th century until 1797. A commonly cited explanation is that the word stems from an Italian word "getto" associated with an old foundry in the area. A bas relief sculpture by Arbit Blatas in the main square — Campo di Ghetto Nuovo in the Cannaregio district — commemorates the deaths of Venetian Jews killed in the Second World War.

The Basilica

The Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute — St. Mary of Health — was built after an outbreak of the plague in 1630. Its ornate dome is a feature of the city skyline. Works inside include art by Tintoretto and Titian. Located in the Dorsoduro district, across the Grand Canal from St. Mark's; take the No. 1 water bus to the Salute stop. Open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. most days.

The Music Museum

Classical music enthusiasts will enjoy the Museum of Music — Museo della Musica — a collection of instruments from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum is in the Church of St. Maurizio, about a 15-minute walk from St. Mark's Square, and celebrates Venice's history as a centre of instrument making. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Metro's travel myth busting

Travel myths are like urban legends — there are lots of them and nobody really knows how they got started. Luckily, Metro's resident travel expert Loren Christie is here to set the record straight.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Want to fly first class? Just ask!

Myth: Ask nicely and you'll get upgraded to first class.

Reality: Sorry, you need more than manners to get seated with the pretty people. When it comes to upgrades, loyalty pays. With cost structures and loyalty programs in place, airlines reserve upgrades to first class to a very select few, such as passengers cashing in program points and higher-tier frequent fliers.

Travel deal Tuesdays

Myth: Tuesdays are the best days to buy airfare.

Reality: Historically, many airlines released fare sales on Tuesdays, which has led to this best day to buy myth, but the Internet jolted this pattern. When you fly is far more important than when you buy. Try flexible-dates shopping to determine when you can get the very best deal and go at mid-day and other off-peak business travel hours.

Calm down, it's just a card!

Myth: Your hotel key card can be used to steal your identity.

Reality: A hotel key card never has your personal information, such as your name, photo, or credit card number, attached to it. Even after you've checked out of the hotel, nobody can use it to pull any personal data. If you lose your hotel key card during your stay, you're simply locked out of your room. The misplaced card is simply deactivated and becomes useless.

Being late to the party pays

Myth: Booking at the last minute gets you the best deals.

Reality: More often than not, travellers will pay a premium if they choose to book an airline ticket at the very last minute. You should try to book your airfare at least 21 days in advance. For hotels, you could get a good deal last minute but it is all about the supply and demand; there is no secret formula. There are some deals to be had by booking a last minute, prepackaged vacation, as long as you are flexible on the actual destination.

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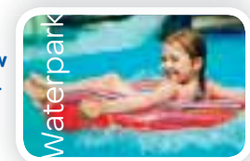

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the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba

Children's Miracle Network

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Children's Miracle Network

Learn more at: ChildrensMiracleNetwork.ca

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Gone fishin' — in a tiny Quebec town

Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade welcomes tens of thousands of visitors each year to fish the river. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Put the cod on ice.

River turns into a town of fishing huts when the temperature drops

A fish tale that began 75 years ago has turned a small Quebec town into an international winter destination.

Today, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade boasts that it's the world capital for tommycod fishing as it welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually.

As the story goes, it began in 1938, when a local grocer went out on the nearby Sainte-Anne River to cut up blocks of ice which he would put into boxes to keep his meat refrigerated.

When he cut through the ice, he noticed small codfish in the river. The word spread and fishing huts soon began springing up every winter, turning part of the river into a small village on ice.

During the early days, because roads were closed during the winter, people came by train to fish and scoop up the tommycod, also known as tomcod. Horse-drawn sleigh carriages were used to bring the eager visitors to the fishing chalets. Steve Massicotte, a town councillor and president of the Sainte-Anne River Outfitters Association, says the wood-heated chalets were originally quite small.

"In the beginning, there were chalets that could accommodate four, six, up to a maximum of eight people," he said in an interview. "Since the '80s, we have chalets that can accommodate 25 to 30 people."

Massicotte says 500 fishing huts are now set up each winter along one-and-a-half kilometres of the Sainte-Anne River and that more than 80,000 eager tourists drop by every year to enjoy the winter fishing.

In one period, during the 1950s and '60s, as many as 1,200 tiny chalets covered the ice on the river. The tommycod fishing season officially starts on Dec. 26 and runs until Feb. 16. Ste-Anne-de-la-Perade is located between Montreal and Quebec City, about a 25-minute drive east of Trois-Rivieres.

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish," Massicotte said, noting that along with Europeans and Russians, much of the clientele comes from China and elsewhere in Asia. "People find it magical, just to be able to walk on a river," he added.

For Massicotte, it's almost like shooting fish in a barrel. "The small fish actually arrive at the beginning of December and there are about 800 million that enter the Sainte-Anne River and leave at the end of February," he said.

Fishing lines hang from the ceiling of the hut and drop into an ice hole that's 30 centimetres wide.

Each person has two or three lines to watch and as many as a dozen people can fish at a time. They can reel in between 150 and 250 fish in 10 hours.

Quoted

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish."
Town councillor Steve Massicotte

"There's no permit needed and no limit to what can be taken," Massicotte said. "People in the cabins can sometimes get 200, 300, 500 fish."

It costs $28 per person for adults to fish on weekends and $25 during the week. It's half-price for children 6-12 and free for kids five and under.

"For children, it's a fish that poses no danger, there are no sharp points, no teeth," Massicotte noted.

A tommycod can measure anywhere from 15 to 35 centimetres long.

There are no family rates, but everything is included - even the wood for the stoves that heat the huts.

Massicotte says finding lodgings nearby should not be a problem. But he cautions to reserve ahead of time. "We have local inns, small bed-and-breakfasts, where people can reserve rooms and we also have hotels and motels that are situated nearby at Trois-Rivieres and St-Marc-Des-Carrieres," he added.

"It's important to make reservations because we know that between 80,000 and 100,000 people come through, so places are limited."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lose the bread, add chicken but keep all the delicious flavours of a BLT

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

No, it's not a sandwich but a delicious salad with all the ingredients except for the bread. I don't often use iceberg lettuce, but it goes so well in this salad.

You can prepare the salad early in the day and dress just before serving.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

2. Combine the milk and egg in one bowl. Combine the panko, Parmesan, and salt and pepper in another bowl.

3. Dip the chicken breast in the egg mixture, then the panko mixture.

4. Heat a small skillet until hot. Add the oil and sauté the chicken breast just until browned on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Place in a 400 F oven and bake for 10 minutes, until the temperature reaches 165 F or until it's no longer pink. Let cool, then slice thinly.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup panko crumbs or unseasoned dry breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 8 oz boneless chicken breast
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 oz prosciutto
- 1 large iceberg lettuce cut into 6 wedges
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- 1/2 cup diced tomatoes
- 2/3 cup light ranch dressing (store bought)

Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 220
- **Carbohydrates.** 11.5 g
- **Fibre.** 0.7 g
- **Protein.** 17.3 g
- **Total fat.** 10 g
- **Saturated fat.** 3.5 g
- **Cholesterol.** 78 mg

5. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, cook the prosciutto until crisp (about 5 minutes). Dice and sprinkle over the lettuce wedges and sprinkle with the crumbled feta and tomatoes. Add chicken.

6. Pour the dressing over top.

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

BLT Salad

This recipe serves six. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Sapphire In a Pear Tree

This drink, inspired by the 12 Days of Christmas, is perfect for holiday parties.

- 1 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire gin
- 1/2 oz Disaronno amaretto
- 2 oz pear nectar
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 oz maple syrup
- 1 rosemary sprig and cranberries for garnish

Starting from bottom of rosemary sprig, remove approximately two thirds of leaves. Crush leaves to release aroma. Add, along with all other ingredients, into cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake well. Strain into highball glass filled with fresh ice. Garnish with rosemary sprig and cranberries.

COURTESY TROY GILCHRIST/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Kicking it old school: Retro Ham Salad

These sandwiches make a great addition to a sandwich tray for an old-fashioned tea party.

1. In bowl, stir ham, cheese, pickles, mayonnaise, green onions, capers and mustard.

2. Lay three slices of bread flat on work surface. Using rolling pin, slightly flatten one slice. Divide ham salad among the three slices, including the flattened one. Using back of spoon, spread ham mixture evenly over slices. Top each un-flattened slice with another slice of bread and cut into small squares to make little sandwiches. Starting at short end, roll flattened slice of bread up into a coil and slice crosswise to make pinwheel sandwiches. Arrange pinwheel and little sandwiches on a platter.

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 6 oz (175 g) Black Forest ham, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) PC World of Flavours Canadian Triple Cheddar Shredded Cheese Blend
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped dill pickles
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) minced green onions
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped drained capers
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Tramezzini White Crustless Bread

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Learn about LinkedIn and let the world wide web work for you

Networking's network. Another acquaintance has added you on LinkedIn, but you're still not sure what the whole site is about. Here's a crash course on this computer-based career consultant

CLARE TATTERSALL
TalentEgg.ca

Commit to regularly updating and improving your LinkedIn profile: this way you won't neglect it. ISTOCK

LinkedIn is a great tool for researching prospective careers, building your network and reaching out and connecting with people

This should be an entirely professional social media tool, so keep your personal life out of it — it should function as an online resumé and professional networking tool.

It takes some time and effort to create a great LinkedIn account, but if you do it right, it will certainly help you in connecting with the right people and getting a job.

Here are some tips on how to set up an effective LinkedIn profile:

Getting started

Get a professional headshot done. You want to be dressed in business attire and looking sharp. This is about creating a positive and professional image — think about what message your photo sends about you and whether it fits with your career goals.

Take time to write a clear, concise and compelling summary statement. Tailor it to what your target audience will be interested in knowing about you. Be sure to include key words, industry-specific lingo and job-specific skills so that it is easily searchable.

Create an effective and informative professional headline.

This helps people to understand, in just a few words, who you are and what your skills are.

Filling it in

Join groups that relate to your career interests and industries. Being involved in groups can help you to connect with people that you might not otherwise interact with.

Add industry relevant skills to your profile. Once you have added these skills, start endorsing others for the skills that they possess. This will, in turn, result in others endorsing you.

Similar to endorsements, the process of getting recommendations is founded in reciprocity.

If you want others to write a recommendation for you, first write a recommendation for them. Take time to write serious and thoughtful recommendations, as they are also a reflection of you.

When you write a recommendation for someone else, they are then prompted to return the favour and write one for you.

Endorsements and recommendations add to your credibility.

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Fine-tuning

- Customize your profile URL — go to your profile, click on Edit, click on Manage Public Profile Settings, on the right hand side of that page, click on Customize your public profile URL. This allows you to create a shorter URL that looks better and more professional on contact cards and resumes.
- Carefully proofread your entire profile. Then, have at least one or two other people look over your profile; ask them to give you feedback on whether it is clear and accurate.

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How to turn casual chatter into a chance

Talk turned around. There's no such thing as useless banter when you're on the hunt for a hot job

TANIA DESA
TalentEgg.ca

Whether you're in an unfamiliar country or steps from home, there are five steps to take if you want to turn a conversation into an opportunity:

Be an awesome listener
Finding opportunities is an active process, just like networking, applying to jobs or marketing yourself in an interview.

However, all of these steps start with good listening skills. You can't learn without new information and you can't acquire any if you're talking about yourself.

Maintain eye contact, acknowledge information with body language and ask follow-up questions based on the information you've just heard.

Test your listening skills by thinking about a recent conversation. You'll probably find that it's much easier to recall what you said than what you heard. Get practicing!

Develop curiosity
When you travel, you ask and answer a lot of questions.

There's nothing wrong with that, because questions are a simple and easy way to get to know someone. However, when you're looking for an opportunity, you want to ask questions that will spark meaningful conversation.

A question is an invitation to engage, so while you're busy not talking, you should be coming up with questions to ignite interest in your conversation partner and build engagement.

TalentEgg asks:

#QuestionoftheDay: Is sending a thank-you note after an interview a DO or a DON'T?

- @jessihutcheson: Total do! Hand written is best!
- @Haskayne_Jobs: Definitely a DO!
- @Recruit_Campus: 100% DO! If everyone else does (most DO) & you don't, what impression are you giving?
- @jessihutcheson: Or if no one else does and you do - what impression are you giving #alwaysagoodidea
- @samboucher24: Do! even an email goes a long way
- @voiceofjamesd: Be original, send an old fashioned card or a brief video message, rather than just an email thankyou

At the end of the day, great questions sprout from your genuine curiosity and fascination — so questions are a way for you to radiate authenticity and drive a conversation.

Take cues from your conversation partner. If they seem bored with broad questions, get more specific. If you feel lost, don't be afraid to let them choose the next topic.

Be a problem detector
If you listen carefully and pose engaged questions, you will soon find yourself immersed in a lively discussion.

Once you've moved beyond questions and answers, your conversation partner will likely share things they wouldn't have disclosed to you a handful of minutes earlier — not secrets or confidential information, but personal feelings about challenges they're facing or areas of particular interest that they'd like to develop.

Identify problems by listening for hints, remarks or statements like:

"I wish I could ... " "The problem is ... " "I'm not sure how to ... "

When these statements come up, dig deeper to understand the underlying problem and ask yourself how your skills could help address the issue at hand. Sometimes, your help can be an anecdote, a story or information from an article you read. At other times, the solution may just be YOU. Then, it's on to step four.

Don't get discouraged if you can't identify a problem right away. Concentrate on acquiring more information and asking good questions.

Showcase your personal brand
This is the big step.

Once you've spotted your potential opportunity and confirmed that it matches your skills and experience, it's time to make your move.

If the conversation you're having is quite lively and informal, you can say something direct:

"I have some experience in this area."

"Have you considered ... "

"Can I share my thoughts on this?"

If you're afraid of coming on too strong, try an indirect approach. Share a relevant personal story that offers some problem-solving solutions and demonstrates your skills. You can also get your conversation partner to explain the problem in more detail by asking further questions, which may prompt them to ask for feedback from you.

Follow up fearlessly
Even the most promising conversation won't lead to a real opportunity without follow-up.

Make sure you've got some way of staying in touch with your new contact once you part ways.

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Communication concentration

Take cues from your conversation partner. If they seem bored with broad questions, get more specific. If you feel lost, don't be afraid to let them choose the next topic.

Know who you are, what you stand for and what value you bring to the table. Having a clear sense of your personal brand gives you confidence to display your strengths, talk about your experience and demonstrate your value.

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SHOP THE CITY JEWELLERS EXPERIENCE

CONTRIBUTED

City Jewellers is a family business established in 1984. The first location at 1412½ Main St. in Winnipeg began as a workshop for watch, clock and jewelry repairs.

As the business grew into the 1990s, the family soon found out that the Main Street shop was no longer meeting its needs. In 1994, the store moved into the Portage Place Shopping Mall in downtown Winnipeg.

City Jewellers has since expanded to include two more locations — one in the Garden City Shopping Centre, which opened its doors in May 2011, while a third location opened in the St. Vital Centre in October.

City Jewellers has a certified watch and clockmaker with more than 30 years of experience and a certified gemmologist (F.C.Gm.A.) on the premises for your appraisal needs.

City Jewellers specializes in custom-designed jewelry, with a wide selection of watches and clocks. Same day service on minor repairs is available.

If you require servicing on your grandfather clock, City Jewellers will make a house call for your convenience. If you require assistance with an insurance claim feel free to contact City Jewellers on how to proceed with your claim.

City Jewellers strives to create a unique shopping experience with a welcoming "no pressure" environment for all customers.

LET DKF FASHIONS HELP YOU FEEL HAPPIER

DKF Fashions wants you to embrace your beauty because there is nothing more beautiful and sexy than a confident woman.

DKF Fashions offers the best female lingerie in Canada by making sure that its products fit any lifestyle and occasion.

DKF Fashions understands that buying lingerie at department stores can be awkward. DKF Fashions lingerie is affordable and comes in all sizes, including plus size with great designs and beautiful colours.

"Shopping for intimates should be intimate," says Francisca Vasu, the owner of DKF Fashions. "I envisioned a lingerie boutique for real women, a place where they can feel comfortable because shopping for lingerie can be such an empowering experience. I have always felt frustrated looking at shops and not finding what I really wanted."

DKF Fashions offers a great collection of corsets, teddies, strapless silicon bras, sports bras and panties, baby dolls, stockings, robes, pyjama sets, Spanx, bra and panty sets, tops, dresses and great legging collections. It also offers specialty jewelry and Royale products, the leading brand in beauty and wellness.

Customers will appreciate the excellent customer service and find something new on every visit to the shop. New additions are constantly made to up with the latest trends.

DKF Fashions is conveniently located on the second floor of Portage Place and operates during mall hours.

CONTRIBUTED

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PHOTO CENTRAL FOCUSES ON PHOTO BUFFS

Do you have a photography buff in your life? Are you looking to surprise them with the perfect gift? Photo Central is the perfect store for you.

Whether you know exactly what to buy, or if you need some ideas and advice, the staff at Photo Central will make sure you have the best gift possible for anyone on your list. And, of course, gift cards are always available should you need one.

Shopping for photographers can be tricky, especially if you don't know what kind of equipment the person on your list has, or if you don't know what that person's interests are beyond the basics.

Gift cards are always a good and safe decision in such a case. Even if the recipient doesn't need anything specific, a gift card will always be handy should they need another memory card, a sensor cleaning, or some prints made.

Or perhaps that major purchase becomes that much easier with the help of a gift card or two from family members and friends. If you are co-ordinating gifts among family, make sure all the gift cards come from Photo Central — this way they can be combined for that great new lens or camera.

And remember, Photo Central gift cards can come in any denomination, so whether you are looking to make a huge splash on Christmas morning, or just need a quick stocking stuffer or generic gift, Photo Central has you covered. Plus, if you know who you are giving the gift card to, the store can register it under the person's name to ensure that even lost cards can be redeemed.

So come by Photo Central this year and keep the photographer in your life happy. You can't go wrong with a gift or gift card from Photo Central.

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT PORTAGE PLACE

Portage Place is your destination for giving and receiving this holiday season. When you purchase $60 Portage Place Gift Card between Dec. 9-24, you will receive a $10 gift card for free (while supplies last).

Did you know that Portage Place offers gift wrapping all year? The staff will ensure your gifts are beautifully presented for a nominal fee. There is free underground parking on the weekends with a $20 purchase. Just bring your same-day receipt from any mall merchant to customer service for validation. Leave your winter coats behind, or check them at customer service for $1 and shop in comfort.

Portage Place is proud to host more than 40 locally-owned businesses. You will find jewelry, apparel, restaurants, health services and much more in one convenient location.

Portage Place has been "The Meeting Place" for more than 26 years. Whether it's your morning coffee destination, lunch meeting or much-needed retail therapy session, you will find everything you need at Portage Place. This holiday season, the doors are open later during the week to provide a safe and warm place for everyone to shop and dine.

For more information, including extended holiday hours, please visit portageplace.mb.ca.

CONTRIBUTED

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

**1629 Kenaston Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
204 489 0744**

KENASTON NOW OPEN

COSY UP TO PERKINS RESTAURANT

WITH EVERY $25 GIFT CARD PURCHASED GET A $5 CARD FOR FREE

This holiday season, visit Perkins Restaurant & Bakery's newest, convenient Winnipeg location at 1629 Kenaston Blvd.

Bring the family and cosy up to a table in the fireplace area while you enjoy one of the delicious new menu additions featuring The Great Steak Out. Get ready to sizzle with Steak Medallions and Shrimp. Tender beef with baby portobello mushrooms and four succulent butterfly shrimp, or a hearty helping of Beef Stroganoff in a rich, tasty gravy served over a bed of steamy egg noodles.

At Perkins, kids eat free every Monday and Tuesday, as well as for the whole month of January.

Give the gift of Perkins this season. With every $25 gift card purchased, you will receive a $5 gift card for free.

While you are making your rounds, stop in and pick up Perkins freshly baked favourites. Delicious pies, breads and its famous Mammoth Muffins® await you and your guests.

CONTRIBUTED

You can also learn about Perkin's healthy options by visiting its nutritional portal at ncperkinsrestaurants.com.

Extended hours of operation at the new Kenaston location are: Sunday to Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Thursday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Visit Perkins Restaurant & Bakery's newest location at 1629 Kenaston Blvd. today.

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Give and Receive

From December 9 to December 24, purchase a

$60 Portage Place gift card and receive a $10 gift card for FREE!*

**Limited quantities; while supplies last. Limit one offer per person per day. Offer valid only from December 9 – 24, 2013.*

CONTRIBUTED

FRESH, UNIQUE GIFTS FROM EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Are you looking for a unique gift this holiday season? If so, look no further than Edible Arrangements.

All of its beautifully presented creations are made with the freshest seasonal fruits, delectable gourmet chocolate and are artfully crafted into gorgeous, healthy bouquets.

Whether you are sending a gift across the country, hosting a Christmas dinner or looking for the perfect hostess gift, Edible Arrangements' fresh, delicious works of art are the perfect solution. Same day delivery is available, too.

Edible Arrangements Holiday 2013 Collection is filled with bright, beautiful freshness for everyone on your gift list. Choose from dozens of fresh festive bouquets, centrepieces, beautifully presented gift boxes, gourmet chocolate and more.

This year, Edible Arrangement is excited to offer the Reindeer Sleigh Ride Bouquet™ featuring fresh strawberries, cantaloupe, honeydew and fun reindeer shaped pineapple dipped in gourmet chocolate artfully arranged in a beautiful sleigh keepsake.

Give the gift of healthy, colourfully shaped fruits dipped in gourmet chocolate this holiday season with Edible Arrangements. Its inspiring creations are light, festive and full of joy.

Edible Arrangements offers two convenient locations at 756 Pembina Highway (204-777-7778) and 35B-3 Reenders Dr. (204-669-6662). Drop in and enjoy a sample of fresh fruit dipped in delicious chocolate. Visit ediblearrangements.ca to view its beautiful, fresh creations today.

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12 Piece Chicken Dinner with french fries, lg Greek salad, garlic toast & gravy for only $27.99* *No substitutions. *Valid with coupon only. Pickup only. Expires Dec. 31, 2013
Supper Specials "EVERY DAY" Includes coffee or tea Call for Details *Dine in Only. Valid with coupon only. Expires Dec. 31, 2013

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Edible ARRANGEMENTS

SMART BUYERS SHOP AT MUSCLES BY MEYERS

Located in the heart of Winnipeg, Muscles by Meyers is one of Canada's longest serving sports supplement retailers. Operating within Meyers LTD, a pharmacy and natural food store, Muscles by Meyers has offered numerous competitively priced nutritional supplements to Manitobans for five decades.

"We began as a Winnipeg-based pharmacy," says Dave Clow, general manager. "In 1974, the current owner, Lyall Meyers, used his connections in the medical and food supply industry to get products that were not available in retail stores, such as protein powders and amino acids."

Thus began supplement sales and Muscles by Meyers. Recently, the business expanded to reach a global market, shipping worldwide through its online store (musclesbymeyers.com).

"We process at least one online order a day," Clow says. "We're industry compliant and we pride ourselves on good practices and product knowledge."

INFORMATION

- Winnipeg's original sports supplements store, open since 1974.
- City's best selection of top-quality sports supplements and specialty foods.
- Experienced staff — nutritional sciences graduates, retail specialists, bodybuilders.
- Providing sports supplements throughout Canada and the U.S. via musclesbymeyers.com.
- Free shipping for all local orders of $35 or more within 24 hours.

Each of the four staff members, including Clow, who work at Muscles by Meyers have a great deal of knowledge and experience working in the nutrition industry. Two of the staff members are competitive bodybuilders, one has a degree in nutritional sciences from the University of Manitoba, and the fourth is on her way to completing her nutritional sciences degree, as well.

CONTRIBUTED

Each one of the staff is passionate about living a healthy lifestyle, sharing information and knowledge with others to help them do the same.

"When helping customers, we don't just indiscriminately sell them something. We ask questions about their lifestyle, their goals and, based on their responses, make recommendations on what would work best for them."

Although growing rapidly, Muscles by Meyers takes time to give back to Manitoba's athletic community by sponsoring athletes of all disciplines and local sports and fitness events.

For more information, please visit musclesbymeyers.com.

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SAVE OVER $45 6-Pack Fitness Holiday BONUS KITS! NOW ONLY $89.99
The 6-Pack Fitness Meal Management System is the ULTIMATE organizational tool for elite athletes, bodybuilding enthusiasts and gym-goers everywhere! It stores 3 meals, organizes all of your supplements and has space for your protein powder, shaker cup, water bottle, utensils and accessories. Comes with 3 containers, vitamin organizer, 2 gel freezer packs and ergonomic shoulder strap.
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WINNIPEG'S SOURCE FOR VIDEO GAMES

VISIT PNP GAMES

Established in 2005, PNP Games has emerged as Winnipeg's top store for video gamers. This past September, PNP Games opened its third location at 160 Meadowood, across from the St. Vital Mall, with two other stores located at 915 McLeod and 2609 Portage.

Owner Jade Pearce attributes his success to top-quality service.

"It's all about knowing what customers want and providing it to them," Pearce says. "It sounds simple, but it can be tricky to do on a regular basis."

Past N' Present Games started eight years ago when Pearce began buying and selling games out of his basement. Although online sales accounted for much of his business, he saw that local demand was consistently strong and decided to open a retail outlet in 2007. Six years later, with three stores operating out of Winnipeg and a robust online department, PNP Games now employs about 30 people.

CONTRIBUTED

"Customer service is key," says retail supervisor Lee Skwarek. "Our staff is approachable, knowledgeable and able to provide vital information on consoles and games both current and retro."

PNP Games also offers game disc resurfacing to repair scratched discs, can replace dead batteries in older gaming cartridges and offers hardware repairs on most current generation consoles.

PNP Games boasts Manitoba's largest selection of classic games, including those designed for systems such as the original Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, PlayStation, Genesis and Xbox. The store buys, sells and trades games, accessories and consoles for nearly every system. PNP Games also carries the latest releases, including PlayStation 4, Wii U and Xbox One titles, accessories and consoles, along with hard-to-find items like branded toys and collectables. Gift cards are available in any amount and are very popular.

Visit one of PNP Games' convenient locations or online at pnpgames.com.

JOIN THE XP CLUB

The PNP Games XP Club launched in September 2012 and boasts more than 2,000 members. For a one-time fee of $10, members gain access to exclusive discounts, including 10 per cent off all used games. With each dollar spent, XP members also collect valuable reward points that can be redeemed for future purchases.

Jets goaltender Ondrej Pavelec watches teammate Mark Stuart and the Blues' Vladimir Sobotka battle for the puck at MTS Centre on Tuesday night. The Blues won 2-1. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rerouting of puck steers Jets to loss

Blues win close one.
Deciding goal scored by Shattenkirk finds the net after carom

Kevin Shattenkirk slammed a power-play goal through traffic Tuesday that was deflected into the Winnipeg Jets net to give the St. Louis Blues a 2-1 win.

Bryan Little scored for the Jets (14-14-4), who started a little slow but more than held their own in the first period, outshooting the Blues (20-6-3) by an 8-2 margin.

Four of those came during the Jets' one power play late in the period. Winnipeg may have the worst power play in the league, but great saves by Brian Elliott kept the puck out of the St. Louis net.

Alex Steen turned things around in the second with the Blues' first goal.

On Tuesday

Blues	Jets
2	1

He was behind the Winnipeg goal-line midway between the net and the boards at 4:44 when he slid a puck behind Ondrej Pavelec that banked off the Winnipeg goalie to put the Blues ahead 1-0.

Pavelec was focusing on those in front of the net rather than the Blues' leading sniper to his right. It was Steen's 21st goal of the season.

Steen's goal helped give the Blues energy and they outshot the Jets 8-5 in the second, although Winnipeg also had to kill a Blake Wheeler interference penalty.

But Little evened things up just three minutes into the third as he won a face-off and then snapped a pass from linemate Andrew Ladd past Elliott on a power-play, thanks to a tripping call against Vladimir Sobotka.

Jets defenceman Dustin Byfuglien was sent off with just over three minutes left for hooking, which gave Shattenkirk his chance to score his third goal of the season.

St. Louis was coming off a 5-2 home-ice loss to Anaheim and had lost three of their last four coming to Winnipeg. The Jets hadn't played at home since Nov. 23 but were 4-2 on an Eastern road swing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Board of governors

NHL listening to expansion hopefuls

Gary Bettman has always been careful not to get hopes up in cities that want an NHL franchise.

That continued Tuesday when the commissioner reiterated the league has no official expansion plans in the offing. It won't happen for the next two seasons but that hasn't stopped the calls from pouring in.

"We're getting lots of expressions of interest, and no decisions have been made to do anything other than listen," Bettman said after the league's board of governors meeting wrapped up. "We haven't embarked on a formal expansion process, but when people want to talk to us, we listen." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stadium Series

Coyotes in the running to host outdoor game

When the Anaheim Ducks play the Los Angeles Kings at Dodger Stadium, members of the Phoenix Coyotes ownership group will have an up-close view of the proceedings.

The Coyotes bought a suite for the Stadium Series game, which could serve as a test run for other warm-weather events, and the team would love to host one next season, president and CEO Anthony LeBlanc said.

Chase Field, the home of MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks, would be the most logical place to host it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heritage Classic in the works for Winnipeg

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, left, and True North Sports & Entertainment Limited chairman Mark Chipman, pictured in this file photo from May 31, 2011, are in the preliminary stages of bringing the Heritage Classic to Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg will most likely host a Heritage Classic soon, though NHL commissioner Gary Bettman sought to clarify that it has not been promised to the Jets for the 2015-16 season.

The Winnipeg Free Press reported that the Jets will have a future game at Investors Group Field, and that chairman Mark Chipman wants to hold it in 2016.

General manager Kevin Cheveldayoff didn't provide any more details than what was in that report. "I think it's a very exciting proposition," he said Tuesday after the NHL's board of governors meeting. "Certainly lots of work probably needs to get done on it. I think it's all very preliminary."

Quoted

"It's still a work (in) progress, but ... we'll have an outdoor game in Winnipeg."
NHL commissioner Gary Bettman

Bettman struck the same chord, refusing to confirm the 2016 Heritage Classic in Winnipeg and saying the story "seems to have taken on a life of its own."

"We had a discussion with Mark Chipman where we said we'd like to have an outdoor game in Winnipeg, Heritage Classic, and Mark said that's great," Bettman said. "We said we're not ready to make any announcements, and what is your preference on dates? He gave us a preference of '16, but there's no formal agreement, announcement or anything else." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brendan Shanahan. Board of governors give VP of player safety thumbs-up

The NHL's board of governors thinks Brendan Shanahan is doing a bang-up job of enforcing player safety.

That was the sense commissioner Gary Bettman got from the room on the second and final day of meetings that included updates on player safety, the upcoming Sochi Olympics, hockey operations and the ongoing relationship with the Players' Association.

In light of Saturday night's game between the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguins, discipline and on-ice conduct are in the public spotlight. It was just one part of the meeting but general managers expressed satisfaction over the state of discipline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doing the time

18

The number of suspensions that have cost players at least one regular-season game this year.

12% increase

NHL salary cap to rise to $71M

NHL revenues have increased so much that next year's salary cap is expected to be roughly $71 million US, close to a 12 per cent increase from this season ($64.3 million).

That's an estimate, but it's the figure commissioner Gary Bettman delivered to the board of governors Monday.

The cap floor this season is $44 million, and it's expected to be about $52 or $53 million next year. According to CapGeek, the only team with a cap number of less than $52 million is the Florida Panthers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs captain's hit from behind draws suspension

Maple Leafs defenceman Dion Phaneuf faces a two-game suspension for a hit on the Bruins' Kevan Miller on Sunday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

2-game ban. Buds to go without Phaneuf after he boarded Bruin

Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf has been suspended two games for his hit from behind on Kevan Miller of the Bruins.

Phaneuf boarded Miller, who clearly had his back turned, during Toronto's loss to Boston on Sunday night at Air Canada Centre. No boarding penalty was called on the play.

In announcing the suspension, NHL vice-president of player safety Brendan Shanahan said that Miller should never have been eligible to be hit like he was.

"At no point during his approach does Phaneuf see anything but Miller's numbers, so the onus is on him to either avoid the hit completely or at the very least minimize it more than he does," Shanahan said.

Miller left the game, but Claude Julien told reporters that he wasn't worried about the defenceman's condition. That factored into the two-game suspension, as did the fact that Phaneuf has no previous history of discipline in nine NHL seasons.

He'll forfeit $66,666.66 in salary as a result of the suspension. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs face 4th suspension

The suspension is the Leafs' fourth during the regular season. David Clarkson got an automatic 10 games for leaving the bench to join an altercation during the pre-season, Nazem Kadri got three games for elbowing Wild goaltender Niklas Backstrom in the head last month, and Carter Ashton was suspended two games for boarding Flames forward Derek Smith.

Sochi Olympics

Russia plans to set up designated protest zones

IOC president Thomas Bach said Russia will set up public protest zones in Sochi during the Winter Olympics, a move unlikely to defuse criticism of the country's human-rights record and a recent law banning gay "propaganda."

With the opening ceremony less than two months away, Bach said Sochi organizers notified him of the decision during their report to the International Olympic Committee executive board on Tuesday.

Bach, chairing his first board meeting since being elected president in September, said the Russians would establish specially designated zones for "people who want to express their opinion or want to demonstrate for or against something."

Bach said he didn't have any details on where the protest zones would be located or how they would be managed during the games, which run from Feb. 7-23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Rangers officially acquire ex-Jays catcher

Catcher J.P. Arencibia and the Texas Rangers have finalized a $1.8-million, one-year contract.

Arencibia hit .194 with 21 homers, 18 doubles and 55 RBIs in a career-high 138 games this year for Toronto. The Blue Jays didn't offer him a contract by the Dec. 2 deadline and allowed him to become a free agent.

Arencibia has a .212 career average with 64 homers and 193 RBIs in four big-league seasons. He turns 28 next month and figures to be a backup to Geovany Soto.

The agreement was announced Tuesday.

Arencibia is fourth among catchers in home runs over the past three seasons with 62.

Catcher J.P. Arencibia signed with the Rangers on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Two of Arencibia's seven multi-homer games have come in Arlington. The other five were in Toronto. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other transactions on Tuesday

- A three-team trade was made involving the Arizona Diamondbacks, Los Angeles Angels and Chicago White Sox. Outfielder-first baseman Mark Trumbo will go from L.A. to Arizona, pitcher Hector Santiago moves from Chicago to L.A., outfielder Adam Eaton leaves Arizona for Chicago, and left-hander Tyler Skaggs goes from Arizona to L.A.
- The Oakland Athletics dealt left-hander Brett Anderson to the Colorado Rockies for lefty Drew Pomeranz and minor-league pitcher Chris Jensen.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	30	20	8	2	84	61	42
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Detroit	31	15	9	7	85	82	37
Toronto	31	16	12	3	86	87	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	31	9	17	5	70	104	23
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	31	13	13	5	71	86	31
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Philadelphia	30	13	14	3	68	78	29
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
NY Islanders	31	8	18	5	77	109	21

Tuesday's results
Los Angeles 6 Montreal 0
Washington 6 Tampa Bay 5 (SO)
Buffalo 2 Ottawa 1 (SO)
Columbus 5 New Jersey 4
Nashville 4 NY Rangers 1
Detroit at Florida
St. Louis at Winnipeg
Chicago at Dallas
Phoenix at Colorado
Boston at Calgary
Carolina at Edmonton
NY Islanders at San Jose

Monday's results
Ottawa 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 Columbus 1
Anaheim 5 NY Islanders 2
Vancouver 2 Carolina 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	32	21	6	5	116	89	47
St. Louis	28	19	6	3	98	66	41
Minnesota	32	18	9	5	77	75	41
Colorado	28	20	8	0	82	65	40
Dallas	28	14	9	5	81	80	33
Winnipeg	31	14	13	4	82	88	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	33	21	7	5	106	86	47
Los Angeles	31	20	7	4	85	62	44
San Jose	30	19	6	5	101	75	43
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	29	16	8	5	94	93	37
Calgary	29	11	14	4	78	98	26
Edmonton	31	10	18	3	84	105	23

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Montreal at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.
NY Islanders at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Getzlaf, Ana	16	21	37
Kane, Chi	16	21	37
Perry, Ana	20	15	35
Tavares, NYI	12	22	34
Steen, StL	20	12	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Ovechkin, Wash	22	9	31
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Kessel, Tor	16	13	29
Couture, SJ	10	19	29
Karlsson, Ott	8	21	29
H. Sedin, Vcr	8	21	29
Ryan, Ott	14	14	28
Marleau, SJ	13	15	28
D. Sedin, Vcr	10	18	28
Seguin, Dal	15	12	27

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	13	.435	9½
Charlotte	10	11	.476	8½
Detroit	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Chicago	8	10	.444	9
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11½
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	12
Orlando	6	15	.286	12½
New York	5	15	.250	13
Milwaukee	4	16	.200	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	16	4	.800	1
d-San Antonio	16	4	.800	1
d-L.A. Clippers	14	8	.636	4
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Dallas	13	9	.591	5
Phoenix	11	9	.550	6
Golden State	12	10	.545	6
Memphis	10	10	.500	7
L.A. Lakers	10	10	.500	7
Minnesota	10	11	.476	7½
New Orleans	9	10	.474	7½
Sacramento	6	13	.316	10½
Utah	4	19	.174	14½

d – division leaders

Tuesday's results
San Antonio 116 Toronto 103
Cleveland 109 New York 94
Indiana 90 Miami 84
Minnesota 121 Detroit 94
Oklahoma City 101 Atlanta 92
Brooklyn 104 Boston 96
Milwaukee at Chicago
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

DRIVE 5

AJAC's historical missteps?

Former winners. Let's go back in time and see the good and the not-so-good victors

The trouble with car-of-the-year awards is that they recognize fetching lines, nifty engineering and value for money, but fail to take into account the one factor shoppers say is paramount to their decision: reliability.

As AJAC names its finalists for the 2014 Canadian car and utility vehicle of the year, we thought it would be instructive to look back at previous winners, in five-year increments, to see how they fared in the real world. Do our esteemed jurists end up picking the best vehicles for hard-working Canadians? You be the judge.

THE 2010 VW GOLF GTI, ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The 2005 Ford Mustang had looks and power but also some faults.

2010: VW Golf GTI

Volkswagen bookends our retrospective with two disparate generations of the worldly, front-drive Golf. The sixth-gen Golf, introduced in 2010, was a masterful reworking of the Mk5 car that landed here in 2006. The body was finessed with an angle grinder to make it more aerodynamic, while the cabin furnishings were raised to near-Audi standards. The GTI inherited Golf's three- and five-door hatch configurations, but with some tuned suspension bits and wicked alloy wheels shod with low-profile rubber. Owners of pre-2010 GTIs did report several minor problems, but VW must have ironed out the bugs; the newest generation appears problem free.

2005: Ford Mustang

To mark the 40th anniversary of Lee Iacocca's groundbreaking Mustang, Ford put stylist J Mays on the job to cast the new coupe and convertible as "retro-future" iterations of the original. By adopting the rear-drive chassis of the Lincoln LS — but with a solid rear axle to keep costs down — the car gained a stiff platform to promote adept handling. Assembled at the Ford-Mazda plant in Michigan, the Mustang benefited from Japanese-quality controls. Still, there were some unsettling problems revealed by owners, including faulty manual transmissions and rear differentials, fuelling issues, faulty emergency brakes, short-lived batteries, bad V8 throttle-position sensors and interior rattles.

2000: Ford Focus

With its avant-garde styling and premium materials, the Ford Focus aspired to be more than just an econobox. And it came in lots of flavours: a four-door sedan, five-door wagon, three-door hatchback and, later, a five-door hatch. Every model was a ball to drive, thanks to its tight platform and sophisticated suspension geometry. The Focus got off to a rocky start in terms of reliability. Owners' mailboxes filled up with recall notices, and the cars exhibited mechanical glitches such as fast-wearing brakes, wheel-bearing failures, broken transmissions and ignition switches, faulty air conditioners, bad fuel pumps and numerous electrical problems.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This year's 12 finalists

- **Small Car (under $21k):** Mazda 3
- **Small Car (over $21k):** Mazda 3 Sport
- **Family Car (under $30k):** Kia Soul
- **Family Car (over $30k):** Mazda 6
- **Luxury Car (under $50k):** Lexus IS 350 RWD
- **Luxury Car (over $50k):** Infiniti Q50 Hybrid
- **Sports/Performance ($50k+):** Chevrolet Corvette Stingray
- **Prestige Car (over $75k):** Mercedes-Benz S Class
- **SUV/CUV (under $35k):** Jeep Cherokee
- **SUV/CUV ($35k to $60k):** Kia Sorento
- **SUV/CUV ($60k+):** Acura MDX
- **Pickup:** GMC Sierra

The process of election

- **AJAC finalists and runners up.** Mazda, Kia and General Motors lead the way in the battle to be named Canada's 2014 car or truck of the year. The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada announced its 12 finalists for the awards last week, including three Mazda vehicles, and two each from Kia and GM. In October, a group of 80 AJAC journalists test drove 174 new vehicles during a week-long series of trials in Niagara Falls. AJAC's annual Test Fest evaluates all new or redesigned vehicles in each of 12 categories on the same day, over the same route, including a high-speed test circuit and/or a simulated off-road course or cottage road, depending on the type of vehicle. The journalists ranked a wide range of attributes, including design, space, quality, performance, safety, economy and value. Transport Canada fuel consumption figures were also factored in, as was the vehicles' price. Those 12 finalists will now compete to be named AJAC's Car of the Year or Utility Vehicle of the Year, which will be announced on Feb. 13.

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NEW VISION

Mustang getting better with age

Then and now. With the impressive 2015 version of the 'All American' icon just unveiled it seemed appropriate to see how far the model has come

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The Ford Mustang is an iconic American consumer product, not unlike the Fender Telecaster guitar, Campbell's Soup, or the Colt 45 handgun (or if you prefer, Colt 45 malt liquor).

Mustang's all-new and sixth-generation version, the 2015 model, was just revealed last week, in a simultaneous six-city debut extravaganza.

The world has changed a lot since 1964, when the Mustang first debuted, but the original and archetypical "Pony Car" is still relevant and is still lusted after. Let's take a quick "then and now" look, to appreciate the transformation of this American icon ...

Target audience

Back then, the Mustang was targeted successfully at young people. Today, the average age of Mustang buyers is over 50. Back then, and right up until the 2014 model, the Mustang was only sold officially in North America. Ford says it will sell the 2015 model globally. As the most iconic, visible, and all-American-styled vehicle in its portfolio, it will help Ford announce its intentions in new markets as it works to raise its global presence.

Sales targets

Back then, Mustang was a big-volume player, by any standard. In 1966, almost 450,000 units were sold in North America. Now, with annual North American sales at about 85,000, it's no longer a mainstream product. But Ford really wants Mustang to outsell Camaro, something it doesn't do now in the U.S. Curiously, Mustang easily outsells Camaro in Canada.

Styling

Back then, Mustang styling was somewhat revolutionary. Now it's retro-inspired with modern design elements. Ford hopes the new look will appeal to more younger buyers, and to those international buyers. But the styling vibe remains very much "All American."

Technology

Back then, with a focus on younger, less-affluent buyers, Mustang was purposely devoid of lots of expensive technology (except for the obvious and many performance editions). Even up to the latest model, Mustang was famous for retaining an old-world "solid rear axle" suspension. The 2015 model is the first with a fully independent rear suspension. It's also the first in decades to feature a four-cylinder engine option — the all-new 2.3-litre EcoBoost, good for 305 horses and 300 "torques." Those moves, and others, like more use of weight-saving aluminum and the new electronic launch control (a first for Ford), are all about making a better Mustang, and a nod to convincing foreign buyers that Mustang is no longer just an American sports car lump, as in, only fast in a straight line, and too big to be agile. But you really have to like how Ford retained the "analogue" nature of the Mustang. The cabin features lots of analogue-looking instruments and actual mechanical switches that should make actual mechanical noises when you use them.

Price

Back then, Mustang was cheap and cheerful. Ford hasn't released prices yet, but you just know it has too much technology, too much safety and performance, and too many modern accoutrements to ever be that cheap again. But what are you going to do? Go back to 1964?

The 2015 Mustang really does please the eye. BOTH PHOTOS FORD

The all-new 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine.

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Offer excludes freight and air tax.
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Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebates have been deducted. Offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,700/$1,650/$1,650 license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †2013 January 31, 2014, expires [4.49%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L/F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 5.0L] models from up to [72] months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the down for [$26,999/$29,749] purchase financed at [4.49%] APR for [72] months, with [$0] down payment, monthly payments [$409/$427] after total price adjustment of . Winter Safety Package cash alternative of [$0] and delivery allowance of [$1,750]). (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by (% periodic rate) equals a bi-weekly payment of [$198/$198], interest cost of borrowing is [$3,899/$4,259] on a APR of [4.49%/4.49%] and total to be repaid is [$30,898/$34,008]). Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,700) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. † Offer valid between December 1 – 15, 2013 for 2014 models and until December 31, 2013 for 2013 models. Receive $750/ $1,000/ $1,250/ $1,500/ $1,750/ $2,000 /$2,500/ $2,750/ $3,000/ $3,250/ $3,500/ $3,750/ $4,250/ $4,500/ $4,750/ $5,000/ $5,250/ $5,500/ $5,750/ $6,750/ $8,500/ $8,750/ $9,250/ $10,500 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2013 [Edge SE] / 2014 [Transit Connect (excluding electric)], E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader)] / 2013 [EMAX] / 2013 [Escape S, E-Series], 2014 [Fusion S] / 2014 [Fusion (excluding S, Mustang V6 Coupe)] / 2013 [Fiesta S, E-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader), F-150 4x2 / F-150 Chassis Cab] / 2014 [F-150 4x2 / F-150 Chassis Cab] / 2013 [Fusion S, Mustang V6 Coupe], 2014 [Fiesta S] / 2014 [Focus S] / 2013 [Focus S, Explorer Base], 2014 [Edge, Flex, Escape S and Fiesta SE] / 2014 [Focus BEV, Fiesta (excluding S)] / 2013 [Fiesta (excluding S), Fusion (excluding S)], 2014 [Focus (excluding S and ST, Escape 2.0L)] / 2014 [Mustang V6 Premium, Explorer (excluding Base), Escape 2.0L], 2014 [Taurus SE] / 2014 [Mustang GT] / 2013 [Edge FWD (excluding SE)] / 2014 [Expedition] / 2013 [Mustang GT] / 2014 [Taurus (excluding SE)], F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2), 2013 [Taurus (excluding SE)] / 2013 [Expedition], 2014 [F-150 / F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab)] - Gas Engine / 2014 [F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew] / 2013 [Focus BEV] / 2013 [F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)] / 2013 [F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab) - Gas Engine], 2014 [F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab) - Diesel Engine] / 2013 [F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew] / 2013 [F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab) - Diesel Engine] - all Raptor, E450, B650/B62, and Medium Truck models excluded. **Offer only valid from December 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, F-Max, Raptor, E450, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to person domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before OAIDS. $1,000 offer is deducted. ††Claim based on analysis by Ford of Polk global new registration for CY2012 for a single nameplate vehicle which excludes redesigned vehicle, platform derivatives, or other vehicle nameplate versions. • Based on R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. ~ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 [F-150 4X4 5.0L V8 6-Speed Auto] / 2014 [Focus S 2.0L I4 6-Speed Auto/Fusion SE 2.5L - 4cyl Escape S FWD 1.6L EB]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, and driving habits. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "Sirius XM", the Sirius XM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of Sirius XM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Outlook appealing mostly for its size

Second gear.
2007-2009
Saturn Outlook

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: BRIAN MOORE

Saturn's big family hauler hit the road for 2007, just a few years before the demise of the GM-owned brand. Packing seating for up to 8 and riding the same platform as the Chevrolet Traverse and GMC Acadia, Outlook packed a standard V6, plenty of size, and a long list of available feature content. Look for split-folding and sliding seats, as well as generous at-hand storage dotted throughout the cabin. Feature content included available heated leather, OnStar, a sunroof, navigation, automatic climate control and plenty more.

Common issues

Check for wetness in the front passenger footwell areas or on the ceiling liner, which could indicate a leaky sunroof. Listen for any unwelcomed noises from under the hood, noting any that escalate when you're steering. This could indicate a power steering pump that's planning to act up. Put your ears on the lookout for any clunking or popping sounds from the suspension as you travel over bumps, which could indicate a worn-out component. Have a mechanic inspect the underside for signs of fluid leakage from the shock absorbers, transmission, engine and AWD system, and to be sure the CV axle boots are in good shape. Shuddering during acceleration, or a lumpy, sporadic feeling to the Outlook's power delivery, possibly accompanied by a 'check engine' light, could be evidence of a faulty ignition coil, too.

What owners like

Owners report satisfaction with the ride and handling balance, V6 performance, easy-to-drive character, generous towing rating, interior design and overall space and comfort. Easy-to-operate folding seats are also noted.

What owners dislike

Noisy factory tires and some cheap interior trim are among the biggest complaints. Some owners, additionally, wish for more responsiveness form the transmission, which strongly resists downshifting to save fuel.

Engine

Look for an automatic transmission and 3.6 litre V6 engine with around 265 horsepower on all models. Outlook packed a lengthy powertrain warranty, which is still being honored dealerships despite the discontinuation of the Saturn brand. All Wheel Drive (AWD) was available.

The verdict

Largely, it's the size, capability and warranty coverage that make the Outlook look appealing as a used SUV buy. If you're dead-set on one, be sure to seek out a clean mechanical bill of health and opt for any extended warranty coverage that may be available.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you have not made as much progress as you would have liked on a project, don't worry and certainly don't work even harder. Maybe in future you should set yourself targets you know you will be able to reach.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to get something finished, step on the gas. Mars in the work area of your chart will boost your energy but you won't get anywhere worth going unless you're motivated.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If someone asks for your opinion on a personal matter, you will be happy to give it. However, if your sixth sense tells you they won't be happy hearing the truth, maybe you should decline their request.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Feuds and power struggles are best avoided, even if it means you have to go off and be by yourself for a while. Do not, under any circumstances, make the mistake of taking sides.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get your financial house in order — quickly. Be ruthless with yourself and make sure you know the difference between your needs and your desires. If something is not a necessity, live without it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your authority on the work front has slipped a bit and you need to find ways to remind people why they should do what you tell them. Be persuasive but don't be rude.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
According to the planets this is a good day for personal issues, especially partnerships. In affairs of the heart, you can hardly put a foot wrong at the moment — and a little of what you enjoy will do you good.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may not be able to rely on certain people as much as you have done recently, but you no longer need them. There is a major luck factor working in your life at the moment.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make the most of the Sun in your sign to show the world what you are capable of. It's never too late to make an impression or to move up in the world but now it will be easier than other times.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may not have made as much progress at work as your talents deserve. But, with Mars moving through the career area of your chart, it won't be long before that changes.

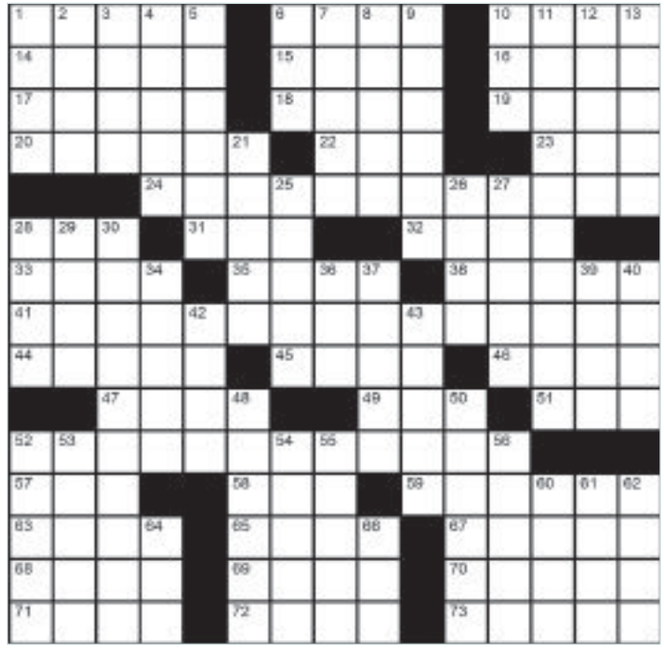
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today, make an effort to read between the lines. What is not being said is likely to be ten times more important than what is being said. Also, watch other people's body language.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be decisive today. Think and act fast and don't worry too much about what the consequences might be. Some people may get annoyed but they need to know you're not the sort to be messed around. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

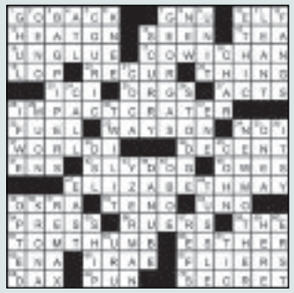
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Fido's warning
6. Color Me __ ('90s boy band)
10. Went too fast
14. Mr. Spock's virtue
15. Wise one
16. Taken-back vehicle
17. Flooded
18. High-hatter
19. Pouches
20. Canada Goose garments
22. As well
23. British running great Sebastian
24. Items worn by Queen Victoria at The Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto: 2 wds.
28. With it
31. New Zealand bird
32. Blinds strip
33. Mr. Redding
35. Fashionably 'ready'
38. Clear
41. John Lennon's handwritten lyrics, etc.: 2 wds.
44. __ socks
45. Hydrocarbon suffixes
46. Hershey's treat
47. Glorify
49. Energy
51. Sketch show, shortly
52. Mount Everest professionals: 2 wds.
57. __ Mahal
58. Li'l loudness
59. Arrogance
63. Songstress Ms. Ali
65. Go __ detail
67. Poppycock
68. Roman emperor
69. Poet Mr. Pound
70. Fragrant oil from flowers
71. Likewise
72. Marinate
73. Antelope variety

Down
1. "__ Shot" (1977)
2. "And __ _ word from our sponsor..."
3. Seaweed product
4. Hazards
5. "To life!" in "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971)
6. Microsoft mogul ...his initials-sharers
7. Some relatives
8. Cake-lover's spotting-cake reaction
9. Claude __, Montreal-born singer/songwriter
10. Grads-to-be, briefly
11. They might be held to negotiate a treaty: 2 wds.
12. Edmonton high-rise office building, __ Tower
13. Prescription amounts
21. Alpine sight
25. "Instant __!" by John Lennon
26. Non-royal
27. Eiffel Tower's home
28. Lively circle dance
29. "Lay __ __ the Line" by Triumph
30. Food preserving containers: 2 wds.
34. Broadway composer, Matthew __
36. Long time
37. Spectacular coin-collecting fountain in Rome
39. Priory of __, in "The Da Vinci Code"
40. "My Name Is __"
42. "You Raise __" by Josh Groban: 2 wds.
43. Thespian's line to the audience
48. Canadian writer, Robertson __ (b.1913 - d.1995)
50. Canadian actress Ms. Ory
52. Ms. Katic of "Castle" on ABC
53. Ms. McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga, ON since 1978
54. Nickname of Gregory Harrison's character on "Trapper John, M.D."
55. Extreme
56. Chimney's characteristic
60. Smidgen
61. Ice floes animal
62. "__ Breckinridge" (1970)
64. Cow's communication
66. Furniture wood

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

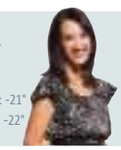
	4				9	1	3	
		8					5	2
				5		7		9
			3	6				5
	1						6	
2				8	7			
3		4		7				
1	6					4		
	7	9	4				8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	4	7	6	3	5	1	9
1	3	5	2	9	4	6	7	8
6	9	7	5	8	1	3	2	4
2	7	1	3	5	8	4	9	6
9	5	3	6	4	7	1	8	2
4	8	6	9	1	2	7	3	5
3	1	8	4	2	6	9	5	7
7	6	9	8	3	5	2	4	1
5	4	2	1	7	9	8	6	3

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -22° MIN: -27°	MAX: -18° MIN: -22°	MAX: -21° MIN: -22°



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